

THE

# OHIO CARDINAL

DEVOTED TO THE STUDY AND APPRECIATION OF OHIO'S BIRDLIFE · VOL. 36, NO. 3 SUMMER 2013





*Jerry Talkington snapped a superb image of this juvenile Wood Stork on 24 July in Kirtland Hills, **Lake**. Neighbors had reported as many as four of the accidental visitor in previous days.*

**On the cover:**

*Nicknamed “Cleveland Brown”, this Brown Pelican found by Jen Brunfield on 25 June achieved celebrity status, having its own Facebook page with over 300,000 visitors, a Twitter account, and a themed t-shirt to commemorate its long stay. Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr. snapped this outstanding image on 09 July near Wendy Park, **Cuyahoga**.*

THE  **OHIO CARDINAL**

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

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## THE CARDINAL TURNS 35

By Craig Caldwell

(With contributions from previous editors)

The Spring, 2013, issue marked the beginning of *The Ohio Cardinal's* 36th year, so it's time to look back at the first 35. This piece was intended for that issue, but I somehow entirely missed including it.

John Herman created the journal in 1978 and started with about 100 subscribers. That first issue, Volume 1 Number 1, was on 8 1/2 x 11 inch 20-lb. bond paper and contained 28 double-space typed pages. (Remember typewriters?) It included accounts of 251 species. The cover was on the same paper stock as the contents and featured a Wood Duck illustration by David Henderson.

Ed Pierce took over as Publisher and Editor with Vol. 3 No. 1, which covered Spring 1980. He was Editor until 1991 with Tom Kemp as co-Editor during the last four years of that period. (Tom remarked to me, perhaps wistfully, that all of the sighting reports came by postal mail, and that they eventually printed their volumes on a dot-matrix machine.) Ed remained as Publisher until he transferred ownership to the Ohio Ornithological Society in 2007.

Some milestones relating to the *Cardinal's* appearance are:

- First colored card-stock front cover: Vol. 3 No. 3 (Fall 1980)
- First card-stock “wraparound” cover, enclosing a body printed on 11 x 17” paper and folded: Vol. 10 No. 1 (Spring 1987)
- Transition to the current “Fall First” numbering system: Vol. 11 No. 1 (Fall 1987), which meant that Vol. 10 Nos. 3 and 4 don't exist.
- First issue in digest format (5 1/2 x 8 1/2”): Vol. 14 No. 1 (Fall 1990)
- First four-color covers: Vol. 31 No. 2 (Winter 2007-08), the first issue published by OOS

There have been gaps and delays in publication. The seasons from Fall 1981 through Fall 1984 were not covered except for the summer of 1982, and Fall 1985 through Winter 1986-87 issues were also not published. Winter 1997-98, Spring 1998, and Summer 1998 were combined in a single omnibus issue, as were Fall 1998 and Winter 1998-99. Spring plus Summer 2009 and Winter 2009-10 plus Spring 2010 were also double issues.

Rob Harlan (1991-96), Victor Fazio III (1996-97), and Bill Whan (1997-2008) in turn followed Ed and Tom as Editors. Ed Pierce and Bill Whan each served for 12 years, but Bill's term had no gaps — he put out 37 numbers. When I asked him about his time as Editor he quickly paid honor to Joe Hammond, Jim Glover, and Troy Shively, who “magically organized my disorderly raw materials into coherent summaries and articles and photos, maps, and illustrations.” He noted that they required him to learn how to use a computer. Unfortunately, Bill and the OOS could not come to agreement when the *Cardinal* ownership changed, and his direct involvement ended. Andy Jones and Jill Russell then presided over an ever-changing cast of seasonal editors for the next four years.

Which brings us to the present. During my time as a seasonal editor, and now as Editor-in-Chief, I have reached out to most of my predecessors. All whom I asked have helped me, as authors, fact checkers, proofreaders, sounding boards, and institutional memory. Without them, then and now, we would not have *The Ohio Cardinal*.

What will the next 35 years hold? The Spring 2013 issue of the *Cardinal* was the first to be distributed primarily as an e-journal. Print copies of future issues will be still be available for those without computer access and for those (like me) who are connected but prefer to turn their pages manually. A project is underway to make back issues available as electronic downloads. Of course I hope that my eventual successor will be able to write about years 36 through 70.

Long ago I was told that the first duty of anyone who accepts a responsible position is to identify and begin training his or her successor. I have shirked that task because I plan to remain as Editor for quite a while. But I'll be happy to interview candidates!

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## COMMENTS ON THE SEASON

### By Craig Caldwell

Temperatures were close to average for the entire season; only two stations set record highs, both in Jul. Seventeen record lows, all but one in Jul, were also set. The biggest changes were both on 25 Jul: Dayton Airport's low of 52° and Celina's of 49° were four degrees below their previous records for that date.

Rainfall was another story. Statewide, Jun was the ninth wettest and Jul the fourth wettest of the 119 years with data. Widely scattered stations set up to 67 daily records in Jun (sources differ). The eastern half of the state had more than 1.5 times its usual rainfall. At least 10 inches fell in a narrow swath through the east-central part, which value is up to triple the norm. The western half's rain was mostly between 75% and 125% of normal. July produced up to 79 new rainfall records, again scattered throughout the state. Only the western edge of the state and the *Fayette/Pickaway/Ross* area had below-normal rain. A broad swath from the northwest to the southeast had two to three times its usual rain and the area around *Wyandot* was drenched with four times its average.

Weather data are from the National Weather Service (<http://water.weather.gov/precip/>) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/maps.php> and <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/extremes/records/>).

Summer means nesting. The second Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas (OBBA II, in publication) has records for more than 200 species, though only about 175 of them can be considered "regular" breeders. Some of them are scarce, such as Winter Wren, which nests here in scattered gorges and other dark cool areas. Another is Common Merganser, known to nest only along a couple of streams which flow into the upper Ohio River and strangely enough on Conneaut Creek in *Ashtabula*. Nesting Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Bell's Vireos, and a couple of other species are known from only one or two sites. In this issue three contributing authors discuss some of our breeding birds.

Summer also means both the end of "spring" and the beginning of "fall" shorebird migration. The excessive rainfall resulted in even less inland habitat than usual for the southbound arrivals. Doug and Micki Dunakin reported "virtually no shorebird habitat here, no mudflats" in *Paulding*. Ron Sempier noted that roads in and around Big Island WA, *Marion*, and the WA itself were flooded in Jul. The "sky ponds" on the *Sandusky/Seneca* line west of Bellevue were full and didn't begin to withdraw until August. However, several areas south and west of Ottawa NWR did provide shorebird sightings, as did the Little Miami River at Lost Bridge. East Harbor SP, especially Middle Harbor, was also a reliable site.

This *Cardinal* issue contains reports for 244 species, a typical summer count. One hybrid is also included as are two entries at the genus level. Fourteen review species are listed; their names are underlined. At least one sighting of each was well documented, either directly

to the Ohio Bird Records Committee or indirectly to it through an internet posting. Those whose documentation supports the sighting will be reported and attributed in a future issue of the *Cardinal*. Unfortunately, many reports contained no supporting information and will not be published. An account for Trumpeter Swan (an introduced species with no truly wild birds ever documented here) is also provided but is not included in the above number of Review List species.

The Records Committee and this editor urge birders to report all sightings of Review List species, of Core List species found at unusual times, of nesting by birds previously not known to nest in the state, and of course sightings of birds never before found in Ohio. Information on how to document rarities is available at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/records/documentation.php>. Detailed reports for Eurasian Collared-Dove, Fish Crow, and Common Raven are especially important to thoroughly chronicle these species' range expansions into Ohio.

Data for the following Species Accounts come from reports submitted directly to the *Cardinal*, eBird (<http://ebird.org/content/ebird>), the Ohio-birds list-serv (<http://birding.aba.org/maillist/OH>), *rarebird.org* (<http://rarebird.org/forum/default.asp>), *The Bobolink* (provided courtesy of its publisher, Robert Hershberger), and the *Cincinnati Bird Sightings Log* (<http://cincinnati-birds.com/goodbird/sighting.php>). I have been remiss in not acknowledging the last of these until now though I have mined it for at least the last four seasons. Most of our 88 counties are represented in the sources. *Henry*, however, produced sightings of only four species, and *Monroe* produced six. No reports came from *Morgan*, *Putnam*, or *Shelby*.

Taxonomic order and nomenclature follow the *Check-List of North American Birds*, 7th Edition (1998) as updated through the 54th Supplement (2013). This document is published by the North American Classification Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union and is available at <http://www.aou.org/check-list/north/print.php>. In the species accounts, "normal" early and late dates are from Harlan *et al.*, *Ohio Bird Records Committee Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Ohio*, 2008. Breeding ranges and isolated locations are from Harlan *et al.* and from Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II submissions.

County names are in bold italics. Locations whose counties are of the same name, for example the city of Ashtabula or Delaware Wildlife Area, usually do not have the counties repeated. County names for sites described in Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus are also omitted. Shortened names and a few sets of initials are used for locations and organizations which occur repeatedly; these abbreviations are listed here. The term "fide" is used in some citations; it means "in trust of" and is used where the reporter was not the observer.

**Abbreviations:**

- Alum Creek = Alum Creek State Park, **Delaware**, unless noted otherwise
- Armleder Park = Otto Armleder Memorial Park, a Cincinnati east side hotspot, **Hamilton**
- BBS = the North American Breeding Bird Survey, a joint project of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Canadian Wildlife Service
- Blendon Woods = Blendon Woods Metro Park, **Franklin**
- Big Island = Big Island Wildlife Area, **Marion**
- The Bowl = a limited-access area near the **Harrison** airport
- BRAS = Black River Audubon Society
- BSBO = Black Swamp Bird Observatory
- Buck Creek = Buck Creek State Park, **Clark**
- Burke = Burke Lakefront Airport, **Cuyahoga**
- Caesar Creek = Caesar Creek State Park, **Warren**
- CCE = Crane Creek Estuary, **Lucas** and **Ottawa**, viewable from both ONWR and the CCE Trail which originates at Magee
- Clear Creek = Clear Creek Metro Park, **Fairfield** and **Hocking**
- CLNP = Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (the former Dike 14), **Cuyahoga**
- Conneaut = the mudflats to the west of Conneaut Harbor, **Ashtabula**, unless otherwise noted
- CMNH-NAS = Cleveland Museum of Natural History Natural Areas Staff
- CPNWR = Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge, **Lucas**
- CVNP = Cuyahoga Valley National Park, **Cuyahoga** and (mostly) **Summit**
- Darby Creek = Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, **Franklin**
- East Fork = East Fork State Park, **Clermont**
- East Harbor = East Harbor State Park, **Ottawa**
- Edgewater = Edgewater unit of Cleveland Lakefront State Park, **Cuyahoga**
- Englewood = Englewood Metropark, **Montgomery**
- eTT = eBird Trail Tracker data entry kiosk, usually at National Wildlife Refuges
- Fernald = Fernald Preserve, **Butler** and **Hamilton**
- Findlay Reservoirs = several contiguous water bodies east of town in **Hancock**
- Funk = Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, **Ashland** and (mostly) **Wayne**
- Headlands = Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, Headlands Beach State Park, and adjoining waters, **Lake**
- Holden = Holden Arboretum, **Lake** (except its Stebbins Gulch unit which is in **Geauga**)
- Hoover NP = Hoover Nature Preserve, **Delaware**
- Hoover Reservoir = (mostly) **Delaware**, but the dam is in **Franklin**
- Killbuck = Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area, **Holmes** and **Wayne**
- Killdeer = Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area, **Marion** (a tiny bit) and **Wyandot**
- LaDue = LaDue Reservoir, **Geauga**
- Lorain = the dredge spoil impoundment east of downtown, **Lorain**, unless otherwise noted
- Lost Bridge = a Great Miami River crossing on Lawrenceburg Road near Elizabethtown, **Hamilton**, where a covered bridge was lost to fire in 1903
- Magee = the boardwalk and vicinity in Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, **Lucas**, unless otherwise noted. The northern 1/3 of the causeway is also in **Lucas**, the rest in **Ottawa**.
- Malek Park = a nearly lakeside park west of Conneaut, **Ashtabula**
- Maumee Bay = Maumee Bay State Park, **Lucas**, unless otherwise noted
- Metzger = Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area, **Lucas**
- Mill Creek = Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, a limited-access area in **Mahoning**
- m. obs. = multiple observers
- Mohican SP = Mohican State Park, almost entirely in **Ashland** with a bit in **Richland**
- Mohican SF = Mohican State Forest, **Ashland**
- MP = Metro Park or MetroPark, depending on jurisdiction
- NF = National Forest
- NP = Nature Preserve (except as part of CVNP)
- OBRC = Ohio Bird Records Committee
- ONWR = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, **Lucas** and **Ottawa**
- ONWR Blausey and Navarre = Units of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge which are separate from the refuge's main body. Both are in **Ottawa**.
- OOPMP = Oak Openings Preserve MetroPark, **Lucas**
- Pickercreek = Pickercreek Wildlife Area, **Sandusky**
- Pickerington Ponds = Pickerington Ponds Metro Park, **Fairfield** and **Franklin**
- RBA = Rare Bird Alert
- Rocky Fork = Rocky Fork State Park, **Highland**
- Scioto Audubon = Scioto Audubon Metro Park, **Franklin**, so named because it's on the Scioto River and includes the Grange Insurance Audubon Center
- SF = State Forest
- Shawnee = Shawnee State Forest, **Scioto**, unless otherwise noted
- Shawnee Lookout = Shawnee Lookout County Park, **Hamilton**
- SNP = State Nature Preserve
- South Creek = the mouth of the creek at Muddy Creek Bay, **Sandusky**, unless otherwise noted
- SP = State Park
- Spring Valley = Spring Valley Wildlife Area, **Greene** and **Warren**
- Springville Marsh = Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve, **Seneca**
- WA = Wildlife Area
- Wendy Park = a lakeside Cleveland city park, **Cuyahoga**
- Winous Point = Winous Point Shooting Club, **Ottawa**
- Winous Horseshoe = a unit of Winous Point Shooting Club, **Ottawa**

## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

### Canada Goose

Reports came from 71 counties. The highest of many triple-digit counts was 240 at Caesars Creek on 07 July (Rick Asamoto).

### Mute Swan

Allen Chartier made a careful count of 65 at East Harbor on 14 Jun. All but one of the smaller double-digit counts were also in *Ottawa*; the other was in *Erie*. Twenty-three counties provided sightings.

### Trumpeter Swan

The 02 Jun ONWR monthly census tallied 40 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus), the highest of several double-digit counts there. The largest number seen elsewhere was six, found by Daniel Hazard at Sandy Ridge Reservation, *Lorain*, on 17 Jun. Reports also came from *Marion*, *Medina*, *Muskingum*, *Portage*, *Stark*, *Wayne*, and *Wyandot*.

### Wood Duck

The ONWR monthly census on 02 Jun again provided the high count, 70 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus). The second-highest was 58, in the Pekin Road marsh, *Geauga*, on 23 Jul (Dick Hoopes). Su Snyder noted a single female with 31 ducklings at Cinnamon Lake, *Ashland*, on 07 Jun, and noted that egg dumping is common in this species. Fifty-five counties had sightings.

### Gadwall

Sites in *Franklin*, *Lucas*, and *Sandusky* hosted two or three stragglers as late as 04 Jun (m. obs.). Two landed at Burke Lakefront Airport, *Cuyahoga*, on 08 Jul (Jen Brumfield), and Gene Stauffer found a single bird in Deer Creek SP, *Pickaway*, on 30 Jul.

### American Wigeon

A few reports came on 01 and 02 Jun from *Franklin*, *Lucas*, and *Ottawa*. Justin Bosler noted the last northbound migrants on 03 Jun; he saw one at Winous Horseshoe and eight in the CCE. Bob Krajieski and the Lanes saw two wandering males at Conneaut on 04 Jul.

### American Black Duck

The high count was four. Justin Bosler found that many in CPNWR on 01 Jun, as did Randy Schietzelt at Kelleys Island SP on 27 Jul. Other sightings came from *Cuyahoga*, *Medina*, *Ottawa*, and *Sandusky*.

### [American Black Duck x Mallard]

Justin Bosler saw one in the CCE on 03 Jun. Another spent from 13 Jun through the end of the season in

Woodlawn Cemetery, *Lucas* (Tim Haney *et al.*).

### Mallard

Justin Bosler provided the two highest counts. He found 200 in Winous Horseshoe on 04 Jun and 500 in ONWR Blausey on 11 Jun. The highest count away from the northwest marshes was Dave Slager's 109 at Darby Creek on 01 Jun. Reports came from 61 counties.

### Blue-winged Teal

Christopher Collins noted 40 at Darby Creek on 14 Jul. The second highest count, 17, was shared by Dave Slager at Darby on 06 Jun and Brian Wulker at Fernald on 31 Jul. Dave's birds included a female with seven youngsters. Other breeding reports came from Winous Point on 04 Jun (John Simpson) and Meander Reservoir, *Trumbull*, on 19 Jun (Carole Babyak). Sixteen counties produced sightings.

### Northern Shoveler

A couple of stragglers were at Conneaut on 03 and 06 Jun (m. obs.). Darby Creek hosted up to four (two apparent pairs); sightings were frequent up to 09 Jun and intermittent from then to 22 June (m. obs.). After a gap of over five weeks, what might have been different birds were seen there on 27 Jul (four by Irina Shulgina) and 29 Jul (two by Bama Clark).

### Green-winged Teal

Justin Bosler found 16 at Pickerel Creek on 07 Jun, which was also the latest date of "spring" sightings. The next reports came from ONWR Blausey, four birds on 14 Jul (m. obs.). Additional early Jun and late Jul sightings came from *Lucas* and *Ottawa*.

### Redhead

One wayward individual spent 27 Jul to 17 Aug at Fernald (m. obs.). Brian Wulker digiscoped it several times during that period.



Brian Wulker documented a rare summer Redhead on 29 July at Fernald Preserve, *Hamilton*.

### Lesser Scaup

Three hung around the CCE through 03 Jun (m. obs.) One was in Muddy Creek Bay, *Ottawa*, on



11 Jun (Justin Bosler) and another in East Harbor on 01 Jul (Jen Brumfield).

### **Harlequin Duck**

One very out-of-season individual was discovered on the Maumee River at Grand Rapids, *Lucas/Wood*, on 09 Jul. Its identity is not doubted but its origin (wild vs aviary escapee) has been much discussed. The OBRC has some information.

### **Hooded Merganser**

The only two double-digit counts were of 11 in the Miami Whitewater CP wetlands, *Hamilton*, on 02 Jun (Kirk Westendorf) and of 12 in Willow Point WA, *Erie*, on 11 Jul (Justin Bosler). Both observers noted that most of the birds were immatures. Accounts came from 20 other counties as well.

### **Common Merganser**

Birders reported adults at Conneaut in early Jun and a female with up to five young there on several Jul dates. Gary Bush found a family of seven at the mouth of Wills Creek, *Jefferson*, on 27 Jun. Single birds were in Woodlawn Cemetery, *Lucas*, on 18 Jul (Tim Haney) and Tinkers Creek, *Cuyahoga*, on 24 July (Ken Andrews, Ann and Dwight Chasar).

### **Red-breasted Merganser**

Chris Swan found three at Conneaut on 06 Jun; two remained for Craig Holt the next day. Thomas Olson noted single birds (or the same bird twice) at Edgewater Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 30 Jun and 07 Jul.

### **Ruddy Duck**

Sightings decreased in frequency from spring to 16 Jun, then ceased entirely until 07 Jul when Tim Thompson saw six off Bay View Park, *Lucas*. The last of a trickle of Jul reports came from Muddy Creek Bay, *Ottawa*, on 21 Jul (Justin Bosler). Twelve counties contributed sightings.

### **Northern Bobwhite**

Greg and Ted Ossage saw one and heard more in the East Fork area on 14 Jul. Kurk Dorsey had noted five at East Fork on 22 Jun. Reports came from 18 counties.

### **Ring-necked Pheasant**

Darby Creek hosted eight on 17 Jul (Irina Shulgina). Sixteen counties produced sightings.

### **Ruffed Grouse**

The four reports are:

Two in *Shawnee* on 01 Jun (Dana Bollin)

A hen and three chicks in Harrison SF on 19 Jun (Scott Pendleton)

One at Holden on 23 Jun (Tom Frankel)

Three at Clendenning Lake, *Harrison*, on 09 Jul (Scott Pendleton)

### **Wild Turkey**

The highest of many double-digit counts was Sean Ricker's 20 in the Dundee Grasslands, *Tuscarawas*, on 07 Jun; the number included five poults. Reports came from 40 counties.

### **Common Loon**

The first week of Jun produced several reports and there were a trickle thereafter. Jeff Loughman saw four birds at the Findlay Reservoirs on 17 Jun; there were scattered reports from there and elsewhere until the season's last of two birds at the Reservoirs on 10 Jul (Shane Myers). *Carroll, Delaware, Geauga, Hamilton, Harrison, Lake, Mahoning, Portage, Summit, Trumbull*, and *Warren* also contributed reports.

### **Pied-billed Grebe**

Joe Baldwin's trip to Big Island on 27 Jun produced the high count of 18. Lynne Albert and Nic Shayko found the second-highest number, 10, at Lorain on 28 Jul. Sixteen counties provided sightings.

### **Horned Grebe**

Sam Corbo was justifiably surprised to find one in a pond at Huffman Prairie MP, *Greene*, on 09 Jun; that's almost three weeks later than the tail end of their usual northbound migration. The breeding plumaged individual which showed up at Conneaut on 27 Jul was even more out of place – they usually don't appear here again until Sep (Bob and Denise Lane).

### **Western Grebe**

One was reported at Headlands in mid-Jun. The OBRC has information from several observers.

### **Wood Stork**

One was reported in *Hamilton* and another, three weeks later, in *Lake*. The OBRC has some details.

### **Double-crested Cormorant**

About 450 were off Wendy Park on 10 Jul (Justin Bosler). Forty counties produced reports.

### **American White Pelican**

These visited four locations:

CPNWR: 20 birds on 01 Jun (Justin Bosler)

Charles Mill Lake, *Ashland*: seven to nine seen on 13 and 14 Jun (m. obs.)

Caesar Creek: one on 08 Jul (Frank Frick)

East Harbor: two on 10 Jul (Justin Bosler)



Amber Hart obtained an impressive image of nine American White Pelicans at Charles Mill Lake, *Ashland*, on 13 June.

### **Brown Pelican**

Jen Brumfield discovered one on the Cleveland waterfront on 24 Jun. It remained well into Dec. Jen and many others filed reports with the OBRC.

### **American Bittern**

Darby Creek hosted three on 14 Jun (Irina Shulgina). Irina also found two at Glacier Ridge MP, **Union**, later that day. Jim Heflich and Patty Kellner saw two in Dorset SWA, **Ashtabula**, on 28 Jul. Reports came from 11 counties.

### **Least Bittern**

Five locations each held two birds; Ron Sempier noted that those at Big Island on 26 Jul were immatures. Twelve counties had sightings.

### **Great Blue Heron**

The two highest counts were 122 and 116 during the 02 Jun and 07 Jul ONWR censuses (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). Elsewhere, Sandy Morrissey found about 100, including many young in nests, in a **Hocking** rookery on 02 Jun. About the same number were hunting Big Island on 26 Jul (Ron Sempier). Seventy-six counties produced reports.

### **Great Egret**

The 02 Jun and 07 Jul ONWR censuses again provided the two highest counts; 177 and 128 respectively (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). The highest count away from Lake Erie was Jeff Pontius's 40 in Campbell Memorial Park, **Franklin**, on 24 Jul. Thirty-four counties produced sightings.

### **Snowy Egret**

The high count was 15; Andrew and Kevin Gin found them along Bodi Road, **Ottawa**, on 21 Jul. Justin Bosler had seen 12 there on 15 Jul and he also found 12 at ONWR Blausey on 09 Jul. The only sightings well inland were single birds in Englewood on 03 Jun (Bev and Ed Neubauer) and Ellis Lake, **Butler**, on 10 Jul (Christopher Collins). **Erie**, **Lucas**, and **Sandusky** also hosted birds.



The mudflats of the Crane Creek Estuary, **Lucas/Ottawa**, were productive for Ron Sempier, who photographed this lovely Snowy Egret on 21 July.

### **Cattle Egret**

The three reports, all of single birds, are:

At the corner of Route 2 and Russell Road, **Ottawa**, on 01 Jul (Brett Moyer)

On the breakwall off Wendy Park on 22 Jul (Jen Brumfield)

Along Cedar Point Drive, **Erie**, on 27 Jul (Chris Pierce)

### **Green Heron**

Tom Frankel and Chris Zacharias each found seven. Tom's were along the Wake Robin Trail, **Lake**, on 27 Jul, and Chris's in Wright Marsh, **Wayne**, on 30 Jul. Fifty-four counties provided reports.

### **Black-crowned Night-Heron**

The high count was 21, which the members of Ed Pierce's ONWR census team noted on 07 Jul (*vide* Douglas Vogus). The next-highest was Justin Bosler's nine at Winous Point on 08 Jun. All of the inland sightings were of single birds. Thirteen counties contributed reports.

### **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**

The long-time Preston Avenue, Columbus, nesting location produced fairly regular sightings until 05 Jul. For the first time in many years no young were seen; all the sightings were of one adult. Sightings in Wolfe Park, just west of Preston Avenue, continued until 07 Jul. The park includes a stretch of Alum Creek (the creek itself, not the reservoir) which is a hunting ground for the Preston Avenue birds. Jennifer Inboden found one in **Hocking**, an unusual location, on 23 Jun. Katie Lambert noted another in a cemetery on Mills Creek, **Delaware**, on 31 Jul.

### **Plegadis Ibis sp.**

One was reported in **Ottawa**; the OBRC has some details.

### **Black Vulture**

Hallie Mason found 41 on 22 Jun at The Ridges, an Ohio University property in **Athens**. Joe Baldwin made the second-highest count, 18 in Paint Creek SP, **Highland**, on 12 Jul. Reports came from the 21 counties shown in the map on page 150.

### **Turkey Vulture**

The Glen Willow landfill, **Cuyahoga**, hosted 75 on 23 Jun (Jen Brumfield). Seventy-six counties produced sightings.

### **Osprey**

The north end of Alum Creek Reservoir, **Delaware**, has had productive nesting platforms for many years. Amy and Kevin O'Neil counted four adults and five immatures using two of them on 07 Jul. Thirty-one counties had sightings.

### Mississippi Kite

The OBRC has reports, some of them woefully thin on detail, from *Hamilton*, *Lake*, and *Trumbull*.



*Cory Chiappone spotted a Mississippi Kite as it circled the lake at Holden Arboretum, Lake, on 04 July, obtaining great documentation photos when it perched on a snag*

### Northern Harrier

There were scattered reports, from 11 counties, throughout the season. All were of single birds except for two at The Bowl on 28 Jul (Scott Pendleton).

### Sharp-shinned Hawk

The high count was two; it was shared by Scott Pendleton and Dick Hoopes. Scott's were an adult and juvenile at Clendening Lake, *Harri-son*, on 09 Jul. Dick's were at Lake in the Woods, *Geauga*, on 30 Jul. Reports came from 13 other counties as well.

### Cooper's Hawk

Erin Hoppe counted five in her *Franklin* neighborhood on 01 Jun. Forty-six counties produced sightings.



*Bob Lane managed to obtain this fascinating photo of a Turkey Vulture nesting on 19 July in Columbiana despite the strong odor of its defensive regurgitation.*

### Bald Eagle

Eagles, especially immature birds, congregate on the Conneaut breakwall. The highest of many substantial counts there was 45 on 05 Jul (Jeff Harvey). The highest elsewhere was 13, achieved during the 02 Jun ONWR census (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). Thirty-nine counties provided reports.

### Red-shouldered Hawk

Locations in *Cuyahoga* (1), *Richland* (1), and *Summit* (2) each contributed counts of three birds. Reports came from 32 counties.

### Broad-winged Hawk

Tim Durrell found a nest with three juveniles near Forty Acre Pond, *Auglaize*, on 02 Jul. About 10 reports were of two birds. Twenty-six counties had sightings.

### Red-tailed Hawk

Our own "roadside" hawk was recorded in 64 counties. Steve Jones counted six while kayaking seven miles of the Scioto River in *Hardin*.

### King Rail

Justin Bosler found three in Winous Horseshoe on 03 Jun and four there the next day.

### Virginia Rail

Scott Pendleton found two at The Bowl, *Harri-son*, on 19 Jun, as did Chris Zacharias in the Honda Wetlands, *Union*, on 06 Jul. Reports of single birds came from those counties and *Ashtabula*, *Cuyahoga*, *Franklin*, *Lorain*, *Ma-honing*, *Richland*, *Summit*, and *Trumbull*.

### Sora

The high count was Justin Bosler's four in ONWR Blausey on 30 Jul. Seventeen counties produced sightings.

### Common Gallinule

Su Snyder contributed the high count of 36, consisting of families along Cemetery Road near Killbuck WA, *Holmes*, on 13 Jul The two other double-digit counts were on 26 Jul; they were of 13 by Jen Brumfield *et al.* at Metzger and 12 by Ron Sempier at Big Island. Eleven counties had sightings.

### American Coot

Big Island hosted the high count of 34 on 27 Jun (Joe Baldwin). Concentrations at Lorain were the only double-digit counts. Thirteen counties contributed reports.

### Sandhill Crane

These were seen throughout the period but there were often gaps of up to five days between sightings until mid-Jul, after which reports came almost daily. All of the double-digit reports were by

Helen and Ken Ostermiller from Funk Bottoms or the adjoining Wilderness Road; the highest number was 30 on 26 Jul. The highest count elsewhere was Charles Bombaci's nine adults by the Old 3 C Highway in **Delaware** on 25 Jul. Reports came from 14 counties of which **Pickaway** is the southernmost.

#### American Avocet

Six locations provided sightings:

CPNWR, one late "spring" migrant on 01 Jun (Justin Bosler)

Conneaut, up to six between 07 and 26 Jul, the first southbound birds (m. obs.)

Mosquito Lake SP, **Trumbull**, 11 on 09 Jul (Arthur Foreman, Sr.)

Lorain, one on 15 Jul (BRAS)

Burke, one on 21 Jul (Jen Brumfield)

Newtown Gravel Pits, **Hamilton**, three on 27 Jul (Brian Wulker)



Beachgoers seemed unaware as they passed within feet of this stunning American Avocet at Conneaut, **Ashtabula**, while Bob Lane took the opportunity for a close-up on 26 July.

#### Black-bellied Plover

Justin Bosler found a single northbound straggler at ONWR Blausey on 11 Jun for that month's only sighting. Jay and Judy Wilbur saw three at Geneva SP, **Ashtabula**, on 13 Jul, the first and only southbound birds of the season.

#### Semipalmated Plover

Craig Holt and Chris Swan separately reported two at Conneaut on 07 Jun, the second-last "spring" sighting. The last was on 14 Jun, when Jeff Pontius found one bird at Darby Creek. Jen Brumfield saw the first southbound bird touch down at Burke on 06 Jul. The high count was 42 by Dave Slager at Darby Creek on 01 Jun. Reports came from 11 counties.

#### Killdeer

Our resident plover was seen in 69 counties. Jus-

tin Bosler made a "conservative count" of 125 at the Lemon and Bodi Roads intersection, **Ottawa**, on 15 Jul. He also contributed the second highest count, 95 birds on West Schiller Road, **Ottawa**, on 29 Jul.

#### Spotted Sandpiper

Six miles by boat along the Cleveland waterfront and breakwalls on 15 Jul yielded 53 for Jen Brumfield. The next highest count was 24, by Shane Myers at the Findlay Reservoirs on 28 Jul. Forty-three counties contributed sightings.

#### Solitary Sandpiper

Members of a Western Cuyahoga Audubon field trip to Puritas Wetlands, **Cuyahoga**, on 08 Jun saw the last northbound straggler. The first southbound sighting was of two birds in Margaret Peak Preserve, **Lorain**, on 25 Jun (Wes Hatch). They started a trickle which expanded after the first week of Jul and yielded a high count of 16 at Fernald on 16 Jul (Brian Wulker). Nineteen counties provided reports.

#### Greater Yellowlegs

Justin Bosler noted a latish northbound bird in ONWR Blausey on 11 Jun. Justin also made the high count, 12 at the Lemon and Bodi Roads intersection, **Ottawa**, on 15 Jul. Jen Brumfield saw the first of "fall" at Burke on 07 Jul, after which sightings came steadily through the end of the season. **Ashtabula**, **Franklin**, **Hamilton**, **Lorain**, **Lucas**, **Richland**, and **Wayne** also contributed sightings.

#### Willet

One spent 16 and 17 Jun on the Wendy Park breakwall (m. obs.); it was the only Willet seen that month. Two at Conneaut on 04 Jul began the southbound sightings (Bob Krajieski and the Lanes). The high count was eight, at Headlands on 31 Jul (*vide* Jerry Talkington). Additional reports came from other **Cuyahoga** locations and single sites in **Clermont**, **Delaware**, **Franklin**, **Lorain**, and **Ottawa**.



Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr. caught this Willet in a perfect pose on the Cleveland lakefront on 15 July.

### Lesser Yellowlegs

ONWR Blausey again hosted the last northbound bird, one on 11 Jun (Justin Bosler). The first southbound report was from East Harbor on 01 Jul (Jen Brumfield). The Ostermillers estimated 90 at ONWR on 14 Jul for the high count. The inland high was 47 in a flooded *Hancock* field on 20 Jul (Shane Myers). Nineteen counties provided reports.

### Upland Sandpiper

Scott Pendleton found seven pairs in his *Harrison* travels. Fourteen birds (adults and juveniles) in one location near the airport on 23 Jun was his (and the season's) high count. Airports in *Clark*, *Franklin*, and *Richland* apparently also provided nest sites. Justin Bosler noted the first fall migrant near the Bait Barn on Route 2, *Ottawa*, on 17 Jul.

### Whimbrel

The four reports are:

One by Corduroy Road, *Lucas*, on 21 July (m. obs.)

Two at Wendy Park on 24 Jul (Jen Brumfield)

Two (m. obs.) and a later-arriving third (the Lanes) at Conneaut on 27 Jul

One at Burke on 27 Jul (Jen Brumfield)



A visit to Conneaut, *Ashtabula*, in a heavy downpour did not go unrewarded for Bob Lane, who enjoyed photographing this pair of Whimbrels on 27 July.

### Marbled Godwit

Donald Morse, Jr., found one at East Fork on 06 Jul for a rare southern sighting. Wes Hatch saw another at Conneaut on 20 Jul.

### Ruddy Turnstone

Kathleen Clink reported the last definitely northbound bird from ONWR on 02 Jun. The Lanes made the first definite fall sighting, one at Conneaut on 22 Jul. Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr., found one at Conneaut on 23 Jun; was it heading north or south? Conneaut also produced the high count, seven on 27 Jul (Bob Krajewski). Sites in *Cuyahoga* and *Franklin* also had sightings.

### Red Knot

Potter's Pond in CPNWR held one on 01 Jun

(Justin Bosler). An early southbound bird spent only a couple of hours on the beach at Alum Creek on 04 Jul (Amy and Kevin O'Neil).

### Stilt Sandpiper

Sightings began with Jen Brumfield's two birds at Burke on 14 Jul and were steady thereafter, though scattered. Justin Bosler provided the two high counts of 10, from the *Ottawa* section of ONWR on 17 Jul and East Harbor on 19 Jul. The second-highest count came from Fernald, six birds on 31 Jul (Brian Wulker). *Erie*, *Franklin*, and *Sandusky* also contributed reports.

### Sanderling

Arthur Foreman, Sr., probably thought his sighting of one at Mosquito Lake, *Trumbull*, on 03 Jun would be the season's last. However, Dana Bollin found one on the Camp Perry beach, *Ottawa*, on 14 Jun. Jen Brumfield and Chuck Slusarczyk found the first two southbound birds on a breakwall off downtown Cleveland on 15 Jul. Conneaut hosted 38 on 29 Jul, the highest of several double-digit counts there (Sally Isacco). The largest number elsewhere was 14 at Camp Perry on 22 Jul (m. obs.) and the only other inland site was Campbell Memorial Park, *Franklin*, where the high count was three on 27 Jul (Paul Hurtado). *Lake*, *Lorain*, and *Lucas* also had sightings.



Arthur P. Foreman Sr. documented this Sanderling at Mosquito Lake, *Trumbull*, on 03 June, a rare sighting for the date.

### Dunlin

All of the sightings were in *Lucas*, *Ottawa*, and *Sandusky*, and all were in Jun. The latest was of 11 birds at Pickerel Creek on 07 Jun (Justin Bosler) and the high count was 40, during the 02 Jun ONWR census (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus).

### Baird's Sandpiper

Four sharp-eyed birders found one amid the Least Sandpipers at Lost Bridge on 27 Jul.

### Least Sandpiper

Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr., found one at Conneaut on 23 Jun; like the Ruddy Turnstone there the same

day, we don't know if it was traveling north or south. One at Frohring Meadows, **Geauga**, on 13 Jun was surely heading for the Arctic (Dick Hoopes). Two at Conneaut on 04 Jul were bound for the Atlantic or Gulf coast, or further beyond (the Lanes). Jen Brumfield's 67 at Burke on 18 Jul just edged Brian Wulker's 65 at Lost Bridge on 21 Jul for high count honors. Were they were the same flock? Fifteen counties produced reports.

### White-rumped Sandpiper

All of the sightings were of birds heading north; the latest were three at Conneaut on 10 Jun (Chris Swan). Two dates at Darby Creek and one at Winous Horseshoe shared the high count of five. Reports also came from **Darke**, **Hamilton**, and **Hancock**.

### Pectoral Sandpiper

Jeff Pontius and Irina Shulgina saw singles in different parts of Darby Creek on 03 Jun. That same day Justin Bosler saw four at the corner of Bodi and Lemon Roads, **Ottawa**, and a half hour later made the season's high count of 15 along Benton-Carroll Road, also in **Ottawa**. The next sightings were on 15 Jul as fall migration began. On that day Deb Teff *et al.* found six on Howard Road, **Lucas**. The inland high count was 13 on 21 Jul, shared by Brian Wulker at Lost Bridge and Shane Myers in Eagle Township, **Hancock**. **Ashtabula**, **Cuyahoga**, **Darke**, **Licking**, **Mari-on**, and **Wayne** also contributed sightings.

### Semipalmated Sandpiper

Justin Bosler saw the last one of spring at ONWR Blausey on 11 Jun. The first of fall showed up at Alum Creek on 05 Jul (Joe Hammond). Dave Slager said he "counted with care" to report 120 at Darby Creek on 01 Jun. The most elsewhere was 55, which Justin Bosler found along West Schiller Road, **Ottawa**, on 24 Jul. Reports came from 16 counties.

### Western Sandpiper

The single report was on such an unusual date that I forwarded it to the OBRC.

### Short-billed Dowitcher

Sightings began on 04 Jul when Bob Krajieski and the Lanes found one bird at Conneaut. A wet field on West Schiller Road, **Ottawa**, hosted a remarkable 90 on 22 Jul for Tom Bartlett *et al.* The inland high was eight; Gary Cowell and Jason Hull saw them in a **Monroe** feed lot on 27 Jul. Reports also came from **Crawford**, **Cuyahoga**, **Erie**, **Franklin**, **Hamilton**, **Hancock**, **Lorain**, **Lucas**, and **Sandusky**.

### Wilson's Snipe

The few reports were of single birds and were

scattered fairly evenly throughout the season. Two locations in **Harrison** and one each in **Franklin**, **Hamilton**, **Hancock**, **Muskingum**, **Ottawa**, and **Summit** produced the reports.

### American Woodcock

This species produced about twice as many reports as did Wilson's Snipe, with a correspondingly longer list of 16 counties contributing. The high count was five; Lisa Miller found them at the Lazy Days Fishing Lake, **Brown**, on 02 Jun. Several observers found four.

### Wilson's Phalarope

Kenn Kaufman found an immature bird along Bodi Road, **Ottawa**, on 16 Jul.

### Bonaparte's Gull

Every county which borders Lake Erie (except, ironically, **Erie**) plus **Ashland**, **Auglaize**, **Hancock**, and **Richland** produced sightings. The high count was 100 at East Harbor on 18 Jul (Justin Bosler). The inland high was two at Charles Mill Lake Park, **Ashland**, on 27 Jul (Gary Cowell).

### Little Gull

Sightings at Conneaut on 01, 02, 06, and 16 Jun were probably of the same bird (m. obs.).

### Laughing Gull

One almost paralleled the Little Gull at Conneaut with sightings on 01, 03, and 10 Jun (m. obs.). The same or another spent 13 to 18 Jun at Headlands (m. obs.). One at Conneaut on 11 Jul was probably a new arrival (Daniel Parsons). Many mid-state birders got to see one or two at Alum Creek on 07 and 08 Jul.



Ron Sempier had this Laughing Gull in sharp focus at the Alum Creek SP beach, **Delaware**, on 08 July.

### Franklin's Gull

One spent from 14 to 18 Jun at Headlands (m. obs.).

### Ring-billed Gull

The high count was 4500, noted by Jen Brumfield off Wendy Park on 25 Jun. The inland high

was 100, by Irina Shulgina at Alum Creek on 14 Jul. Reports came from 35 counties.

### Herring Gull

The largest of three four-digit concentrations (1800 birds), all in *Cuyahoga*, was off Wendy Park on 16 Jun (Jen Brumfield). The largest inland group was of 65 at the *Mercer* end of Grand Lake St. Marys on 07 Jun (Regina Schieltz). Twenty-two counties had sightings.

### Lesser Black-backed Gull

This year produced the most summer sightings since record-breaking 2009. They are:

One at CPNWR on 01 Jun (Justin Bosler)

Two at Conneaut on 07 Jun (Craig Holt)

One at Wendy Park on 16 Jun, 22 Jul, and 28 Jul (Probably at least two different birds; Jen Brumfield)

One at Burke on 21 Jul (Probably the 22 Jul Wendy Park bird; Jen Brumfield)

One at Conneaut on 20 and 28 Jul (Bob Krajeski and m. obs. respectively)

### Glaucous Gull

Jen Brumfield discovered this late spring/summer rarity off Edgewater Park, *Cuyahoga*, on 29 May; she refound what we assume was the same bird off Wendy Park on 25 Jun. It was seen every few days there and at other Cleveland lakefront sites until 11 Aug.

### Great Black-backed Gull

The sightings were:

One or two at Conneaut during the whole season (m. obs.)

One at various Cleveland lakefront sites from 24 Jun to 10 Jul (m. obs.)

One unusually far inland at Alum Creek on 08 Jul (Irina Shulgina)

One at the Eastlake power plant, *Lake*, on 25 Jul (Tom Kaczynski)

### Least Tern

The OBRC has reports from *Delaware* and *Hamilton*.

### Caspian Tern

Sightings were spotty in Jun and fairly regular in Jul. Justin Bosler found 140 at East Harbor on 18 Jul. The highest inland count was 19 at Clear Fork Reservoir on 28 Jul; the flock roamed and was seen at both the *Morrow* and *Richland* ends (m. obs.). Nineteen counties produced reports.

### Black Tern

Shane Myers and Jeff Loughman found two at the Findlay Reservoirs on 03 Jun. Brian Wulker saw five at Lost Bridge on 27 Jul. Single birds were reported at two locations in each of *Frank-*

*lin* and *Wayne* and one location in each of *Geauga*, *Paulding*, and *Richland*.

### Common Tern

These were present all season but sightings were scarce during the second half of Jun. Jen Brumfield made the high count of 112, at Metzger on 26 Jul. Inland reports were of two birds at the Findlay Reservoirs on 02 Jul (Jeff Loughman), one at the *Richland* end of Clear Fork Reservoir on 24 Jul (Gary Cowell), and two at Atwood Lake, *Carroll*, on 31 Jul (*vide The Bobolink*). *Ashtabula*, *Cuyahoga*, *Erie*, and *Ottawa* also contributed reports.

### Forster's Tern

All reports but one were from *Ashtabula*, *Lucas*, and *Ottawa*; the high count was 35 at Maumee Bay SP (Irina Shulgina). John Habig discovered one on the short *Warren* stretch of the Great Miami River on 01 Jun.

### Rock Pigeon

Stephanie Malinich provided the highest count, 75 birds at OSW Waterman Farm, *Franklin*, on 11 Jun. Reports came from 50 counties.

### Eurasian Collared-Dove

Reports went to the OBRC from *Clark*, *Clin-ton*, *Richland*, *Wayne*, and *Wyandot*.

### White-winged Dove

The OBRC has a report from *Tuscarawas*.

### Mourning Dove

These were "all over the utility wires" at Fernald on 17 Jul; Brian Wulker counted 250 of them. His was the only number exceeding 70. Eighty counties had sightings.



Allan Claybon skillfully photographed this Least Tern at Campbell Lakes Preserve, *Hamilton*, on 02 June.

### Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Justin Bosler found 13 in OOPMP on 09 Jun. The second-highest number was seven; Charles Bombaci saw or heard them along the northeast shore of Hoover Reservoir. Rob Harlan wrote that one "...began singing at about 1 AM 7/2 in

Columbia Woods Pk., Norton [*Summit*]. This apparently instigated a Cardinal to start singing as well.” Forty-six counties produced reports.

### **Black-billed Cuckoo**

The high count of two was shared. Brad Goodner found them in Eagle Creek SNP, *Portage*, on 12 Jun and Richard Kidwell found his along Township Road 207, *Hancock*. Eighteen counties yielded sightings.

### **Barn Owl**

A separate summary of Tom Henry’s banding activities follows the Species Accounts. A few reports by other observers came from *Holmes* and *Tuscarawas*. These two counties, plus *Coshoc-ton*, *Knox*, and *Wayne*, are where Tom banded this year. Elsewhere, Jim Fry reported one in *Franklin* on 01 Jun and Jonathan Grainger another in the Edge of Appalachia Preserve, *Adams*, on 30 Jun.

### **Eastern Screech-Owl**

Reuben S. Erb hosted a family group of seven in his *Holmes* yard for much of the season. Liz McQuaid found a nest with three youngsters attended by both adults in Rocky River, *Cuyahoga*, on 29 Jun. Jen Brumfield noted four birds in West Creek Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, on 24 Jul. The remaining reports, from 14 counties in total, were of single birds.

### **Great Horned Owl**

Justin Bosler found two in each of CPNWR (on 01 Jun) and Winous Point (on 08 Jun). The other reports were of single birds. Eighteen counties produced sightings.

### **Barred Owl**

The Narrows Reserve, *Greene*, hosted four on 18 Jul (Christopher Collins). A couple of locations sported nests with three young. Reports came from 27 counties.

### **Common Nighthawk**

Tom Fishburn reported that he regularly saw one in his Berea, *Cuyahoga*, neighborhood all summer. The Dunakins noted that old flat-roofed buildings in *Paulding* were still attractive to nighthawks. The high count was nine, from Salway Park, *Hamilton*, on 23 Jun (William Hull). Twenty-three counties provided reports.

### **Chuck-will’s-widow**

All of the reports came from the Edge of Appalachia Preserve, *Adams*, in Jun. Up to three birds were heard. The only specific location noted was the Preserve’s Eulett Center; it’s on Wagoner Riffle Road and there’s a nice pullout by the Center entrance.

### **Eastern Whip-poor-will**

Matt Anderson experienced “a perfect morning for listening” on 15 Jun in OOPMP; he heard 15 calling during his breeding bird survey. Kevin Gin heard 12 there on 20 Jul. Sally Isacco saw three and heard another eight along Odle Creek Road in Shawnee on 14 Jun. The other report from those counties and *Adams*, *Harrison*, *Hocking*, *Summit*, *Vinton*, and *Washington* were of up to three birds.

### **Chimney Swift**

Jen Brumfield estimated 800 were working Burke on 14 Jul. Ann and Dwight Chasar noted about 475 over Bedford Heights, *Cuyahoga*, on 21 Jul. Sixty-three counties produced sightings.

### **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

Allen Chartier banded 33 and saw another 24 during a long day at Lake Hope SP, *Vinton*, on 13 Jul. The highest number not at a banding station was 15 at feeders on the grounds of Old Camp Logan, *Jefferson*, on 26 Jun (Mary Ellen Newport). Reports came from 63 counties.

### **Belted Kingfisher**

Tyler Ficker discovered 10 while boating East Fork Lake on 08 Jul. The Lanes noted two at a Conneaut burrow on 04 Jul. Matt Anderson reported on 09 Jun that he “found a nest in the Maumee State Forest [*Fulton/Lucas*] today in a dirt pile quite a distance from any water; the male was chattering noisily nearby with a bright reddish-orange goldfish in its bill!” Fifty-seven counties provided reports.

### **Red-headed Woodpecker**

Two miles of East Fork Lake shoreline yielded 25 on 07 Jul for Tyler Ficker; he said there were several in every cove. Tim Haney found 22 in OOPMP on 03 Jun. Fifty-six counties produced reports.

### **Red-bellied Woodpecker**

Shannon Thompson wandered a friend’s large property in *Warren* on 09 Jun and came up with 21. Justin Bosler noted 13 in OOPMP the same day, and there were several reports of 10 birds. Seventy-three counties had sightings.

### **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

Cleveland Museum of Natural History Natural Areas staff (CMNH-NAS) found two or three on several Jun dates in the Museum’s Kightlinger property, *Ashtabula*, where they’ve bred for years. Martha Happ noted what could have been a breeder near Chardon, *Geauga*, on 09 Jun. Scott Huge saw two on 21 Jun and one on 26 Jun in his *Portage* yard; that’s outside their known Ohio breeding zone but not by much.



**Downy Woodpecker**

No doubt these are everywhere, but only 71 counties provided reports. Charles Bombaci counted 11 on each of 03 Jun in Sharon Woods MP, *Franklin*, and 25 Jul in Hoover NP's Area N. Several reports included 10 birds.

**Hairy Woodpecker**

The high count was six; Dave Slager found them in Darby Creek on 14 Jun. Fifty-six counties produced sightings.

**Northern Flicker**

OOPMP hosted 20 on 03 Jun (Tim Haney). Seventy-five counties had sightings.

**Pileated Woodpecker**

Noel Cutright noted five along his BBS route in *Pike* on 08 Jun. Gregory Bennett found the same number in Bath NP, *Summit*, on 23 Jun. Fifty-two counties provided reports.

**American Kestrel**

All of the counts of four or more were in late Jul; the highest was six at Burke on 27 Jul (Jen Brumfield). Regina Schieltz reported from *Darke* that a pair fledged three young in a box she intended for screech-owl use. Fifty-five counties had sightings.

**Peregrine Falcon**

The University of Toledo bell tower pair fledged two young; those four were the highest count of the season (Tim Thompson). More reports came from additional *Lucas* sites and *Cuyahoga*, *Erie*, *Franklin*, *Hamilton*, *Lake*, *Lorain*, *Ottawa*, *Summit*, and *Wood*.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**

The three reports are:

One on 02 Jun in his *Lake* yard (Haans Petruschke)

One on 05 Jun in Zaleski SF, *Vinton* (Bruce Simpson)

One "continuing a string of late migrants" on 08 Jun near Alum Creek Reservoir (Rob Thorn)

**Western Wood-Pewee**

A tentative identification report from *Hocking* was forwarded to the OBRC. If accepted, it would be a state first.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee**

The highest of many double-digit counts was 20, which Andy Jones reported while kayaking 10 miles of the upper Cuyahoga River in *Geauga* on 02 Jun. The other reports came from 72 counties.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**

The five reports are:

Two in Clifton Gorge SNP, *Greene*, on 01 Jun (Amanda Wolski)

Two in Peterson Park, *Greene*, also on 01 Jun (Amanda Wolski)

One in Sharon Woods MP, *Franklin*, on 03 Jun (Charles Bombaci)

One in Erie Street Cemetery, *Cuyahoga*, on also 03 Jun (Terri Martincic)

One at Headlands, a straggler on 12 Jun (Jerry Talkington *et al.*)

**Acadian Flycatcher**

Craig Moore birded four miles of trails in the *Hocking* section of Clear Creek on 09 Jun and counted 18; about 50 were scattered throughout the full park that day (Rob Thorn). Reports of 16 came from three other sites. Fifty-seven counties produced sightings.

**Alder Flycatcher**

The high count of six was shared. Tim Krynak found them in North Chagrin Reservation, *Lake*, on 02 Jun. The CMNH-NAS saw and heard theirs in Crosscaven Farm, *Geauga*, on 17 Jun. Reports came from 24 counties.

**Willow Flycatcher**

Winous Point hosted 15 on 08 Jun (Justin Bosler). Eleven graced the private Olson Preserve, *Summit*, on 12 Jun (Laura Gooch and Thomas Olson) and also the Darby Bend area of Prairie Oaks MP, *Franklin*, on 28 Jul (Bryan Sharp). Fifty counties provided reports.

**"Traill's" (Alder/Willow) Flycatcher**

Late in the season, when many Alder and Willow flycatchers have gone silent, several cautious birders recorded their sightings as this superspecies.

**Least Flycatcher**

Most of the reports, from 17 counties, were in Jun; the few Jul reports were concentrated towards the end of the month. Andy Jones' *Geauga* kayak trip (see Eastern Wood-Pewee) produced eight. The second highest count was Tim Haney's four in OOPMP on 03 Jun.

**Eastern Phoebe**

Charles Bombaci counted 12 in Hoover NP on 09 Jun and again while boating the northeast shore of Hoover Reservoir on 30 Jun; there may be some overlap. Inga Schmidt provided the second-highest count, eight at two nests on Chagrin River Road, *Geauga*, on 05 Jun. Reports came from 66 counties.

**Great Crested Flycatcher**

Charles Bombaci and Hoover NP again provided the high count, 23 on 09 Jun. Justin Bosler found 14 in OOPMP on 09 Jun for the second-highest number. Sixty-three counties produced reports.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher**

The OBRC has a report of an anomalous *My-*

*iarchus* flycatcher, tentatively identified as this species, from **Lake**.

### Eastern Kingbird

Both the 02 Jun and 07 Jul ONWR censuses produced 42 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). The highest count elsewhere, 20, was along Hoover Reservoir's northeast shore on 30 Jun (Charles Bombaci). Sixty-eight counties provided sightings.

### Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

One report from **Hancock** went to the OBRC.

### White-eyed Vireo

Noel Cutright's BBS route in **Pike** produced eight on 08 Jun. Reports came from 52 counties.

### Bell's Vireo

Observers found one or two along the Heritage Trail, **Franklin**, through 20 Jul. Tom Kemp saw and heard one on 20 Jun and two on 14 Jul in North Baltimore, **Wood**; he noted that his three previous sightings in that county were within a half-mile of the location.

### Yellow-throated Vireo

Andy Jones found 10 along the Upper Cuyahoga River on 02 Jun (see Eastern Wood-Pewee). The 01 Jun CVNP census produced seven (Douglas Vogus *et al.*). Fifty-one counties had sightings.

### Blue-headed Vireo

Sightings decreased through Jun and to the middle of Jul, then ceased altogether until 28 Jul. The high count was three, by Sandra Griffiths in the Virginia Kendall area of CVNP on 01 Jul. **Ashland**, **Cuyahoga**, **Geauga**, **Hocking**, **Lake**, **Lorain**, **Lucas**, **Scioto**, and **Trumbull** also contributed reports; many were of two birds.

### Warbling Vireo

The several counts in the 10 to 20 range were topped twice. Ed Pierce's ONWR census team found 24 on 02 Jun (*vide* Douglas Vogus) and Charles Bombaci noted the same number in Hoover NP on 09 Jun. Fifty-three counties had sightings.

### Red-eyed Vireo

Noel Cutright found 40 on 08 Jun along his **Pike** BBS route. Two observers counted 20, Andy Jones along the upper Cuyahoga River on 02 Jun (see Eastern Wood-Pewee) and Justin Bosler in OOP-MP on 09 Jun. Reports came from 71 counties.

### Blue Jay

About 35 visited or passed Carl Hansen's **Franklin** home on 29 Jul—was it early migration massing? Charles Bombaci found 25 in Hoover NP on 09 Jun. Sixty-four counties provided reports.

### American Crow

Hallie Mason counted 107 along seven miles

of the **Holmes** Rail-to-Trail on 28 Jul. The second-highest count was 60 near Loudonville, **Ashland**, on 20 Jul (Steven L. Hochstetler). Seventy-five counties had sightings.

### Fish Crow

The OBRC has several reports from sites in **Cuyahoga**.

### Common Raven

The OBRC has reports of continuing sightings in **Knox**.

### Horned Lark

A visit to The Wilds and vicinity, **Muskingum**, on 03 Jun netted 35 for Paul Krusling. Observers in **Franklin**, **Lorain**, and **Wood** each noted about 20. Thirty-nine counties produced reports.

### Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Jen Brumfield marked the beginning of migration with a count of 65 at Burke on 07 Jul. Sixty counties provided reports.

### Purple Martin

Participants in a BRAS field trip counted 176 (35 pairs and 106 nestlings) at the Lakeview Park, **Lorain**, nest gourds on 30 Jun. Two other counts, both of 150, exceeded 75. Justin Bosler saw them at Winous Point on 17 Jul and Scott Pendleton saw his at The Bowl on 28 Jul. Reports came from 55 counties.

### Tree Swallow

The Hoover Reservoir northeast shore on 03 Jun (Charles Bombaci) and Big Island on 27 Jul (Ron Sempier) each hosted about 200. Jul also produced many counts in the 100 to 150 range. Sixty-nine counties had sightings.



Amber Hart captured a sweet image of Tree Swallow nestlings on 12 June at Foundation Park, **Knox**.

### Bank Swallow

Justin Bosler found two migration aggregates at Pickerel Creek on 16 Jul; they totaled about 3500 birds. The second-highest count was 350, along Wilderness Road, **Wayne**, on 28 Jul (the Ostermillers). Forty-four counties yielded sightings.

### Barn Swallow

Jen Brumfield estimated 1000 at Burke on 14 Jul and many three-digit counts also came from there.

The highest number elsewhere was 120, at Charles Mill Lake Park, **Ashland**, on 27 Jul (Gary Cowell). Sixty-six counties produced reports.

#### Cliff Swallow

Dennis Kline counted 583 active nests at a farm south of Holmesville, **Holmes**, on 26 Jun. A colony at Twin Bridges, **Franklin**, hosted 215 on 23 Jun (Charles Bombaci). Charles also made the only other three-digit count, 115 at Hoover NP Area Q on 23 Jun. Reports came from 39 counties.

#### Carolina Chickadee

Charles Bombaci's field time in Hoover NP paid off on 09 Jun when he found 30 of these sprites. Fifty-two counties had sightings.

#### Black-capped Chickadee

Justin Bosler almost tied Charles Bombaci's Carolina Chickadee number with 28 Black-capped in OOPMP, also on 09 Jun. Twenty-five counties produced reports.

#### Tufted Titmouse

Holden hosted 26 on 30 Jun (Tom Frankel). Sixty-nine counties provided reports.

#### Red-breasted Nuthatch

The Chasars saw four in Wood Hollow MP, **Summit**, on 19 Jun. Most of the remaining reports were of single birds but there were also a few of two or three. Sightings also came from **Allen**, **Ashland**, **Cuyahoga**, **Geauga**, **Lucas**, **Mahoning**, **Medina**, and **Portage**.

#### White-breasted Nuthatch

Tom Frankel counted 13 in Holden on 30 Jun. Reports came from 67 counties.

#### Brown Creeper

Andy Jones' 02 Jun kayak trip in **Geauga** (see Eastern Wood-Pewee) produced ten. The second-highest count was three, also along the Upper Cuyahoga, on 21 Jun (Scott Hugel). **Adams**, **Ashland**, **Cuyahoga**, **Franklin**, **Hamil-**



Photographer Tom Fishburn beautifully captured this Bank Swallow in flight on 17 June at Holy Cross Cemetery, **Cuyahoga**.

**ton**, **Harrison**, **Hocking**, **Lucas**, **Mahoning**, **Summit**, **Trumbull**, and **Wayne** also provided sightings.

#### House Wren

The 07 Jul ONWR census participants found 37 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). The second-highest count was 21, in Hoover NP on 09 Jun (Charles Bombaci), and sites in **Greene**, **Lucas**, and **Summit** each produced 16. Sixty-nine counties provided reports.

#### Winter Wren

The three locations with sightings are: CVNP Ledges/Virginia Kendall area, **Summit**; four Jul reports (m. obs.)  
Holden Arboretum's Stebbins Gulch, **Geauga**; two Jun reports (CMNH-NAS)  
Mohican SP Lyons Falls Trail; one Jun and three Jul reports (m. obs.)

#### Sedge Wren

The reports are:

One at Lime Lake 5, **Summit**, during the 14 to 23 Jun county census (*vide* Dwight Chasar and Douglas Vogus)

Up to four in various sections of Darby Creek in Jul (m. obs.)

One at a **Hancock** home on 22 Jul (Noah Brand)  
Two at Pickerel Creek on 27 Jul (Su Snyder)



This perky Sedge Wren perched nicely for Su Snyder at Pickerel Creek WA, **Sandusky**, on 27 Jul.

#### Marsh Wren

The 02 Jun and 07 Jul ONWR censuses produced 38 and 43, respectively (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). The other northwestern marshes provided several more double-digit counts as well. The highest number elsewhere was the eight which the Chasars winkled out of the CVNP Brookside Road marsh on 17 Jul. Reports came from 20 counties.

#### Carolina Wren

Bill Stanley found 15 in the Cincinnati Nature Center's Rowe Woods, **Clermont**, on 27 Jul.

Sheree Cyra noted 12 in Englewood on 16 Jun for the second-highest count. Sixty-nine counties had sightings.

#### **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**

Englewood hosted 31 for Amanda Lawson on 09 Jun. Justin Bosler found 19 in OOPMP the same day. Sixty-four counties produced sightings.

#### **Golden-crowned Kinglet**

Fred Losi watched one sing in Seven Ranges Boy Scouts Camp, *Carroll*, on 02 Jul, for a rare summer encounter.

#### **Eastern Bluebird**

Justin Bosler found 28 during his five hours in OOPMP on 09 Jun. The second-highest count was the 16 which Mike Edgington saw during six hours in and around Akron, *Summit*, on 08 Jul. Sixty-six counties provided reports.

#### **Veery**

Various sites in Mohican SF and SP produced 18 for a trio of surveyors on 15 Jun (*vide The Bobolink*) and also for Craig Caldwell on 02 Jul. Ten “Wilson’s Thrushes” graced each of two locations. Andy Jones found them along the Cuyahoga River in *Geauga* on 02 Jun (see Eastern Wood-Pewee). Pat Coy and Karin Tanquist counted theirs along the Perkins Trail in CVNP on both 15 and 23 Jun. Reports came from 17 counties of which only *Hocking* is south of Columbus.

#### **Gray-cheeked Thrush**

Ed Pierce *et al.* discovered one during the 02 Jun ONWR census (*vide Douglas Vogus*). Laura Gooch banded another straggler at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, *Cuyahoga*, on 03 Jun.

#### **Swainson’s Thrush**

Six were reported:

On 01 Jun in Hills and Dales MP, *Montgomery* (Chris Zacharias)

On 02 Jun at the Norma Johnson Center, *Tuscarawas* (Greg Miller)

On 03 Jun at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, *Cuyahoga* (Laura Gooch)

On 05 Jun along Walhalla Road, *Franklin* (Molly McDermott)

On 07 Jun in Hoover NP (Rob Thorn)

On 09 Jun along Blacksnake Hill Road, *Tuscarawas* (Curt Wood)

#### **Hermit Thrush**

A few reports came in Jun from *Geauga* and *Summit* and all season long from *Ashland* and *Hocking*. The high count was six, along the Gorge Overlook Trail in Hocking Hills SP on 16 Jun (Chuck McClaugherty).

#### **Wood Thrush**

Noel Cutright’s BBS route in *Pike* produced 26

on 08 Jun. Marybeth Limc spent 3 ½ hours in Jefferson Lake SP, *Jefferson*, on 15 Jun and noted 20. Reports came from 65 counties.

#### **American Robin**

Tim Harvey found 120 in Woodlawn Cemetery, *Lucas*, on 14 Jul and about 100 there on several other dates. Kent Miller saw about 100 around his home in Hartville, *Stark*, on 01 Jun. An even 80 counties yielded sightings.

#### **Gray Catbird**

The 07 Jul ONWR census produced 68 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide Douglas Vogus*). Smaller specific counts ranged into the mid-30s and many observers noted they were abundant without providing numbers. Seventy-five counties provided reports.

#### **Brown Thrasher**

Hallie Mason counted 15 around a friend’s *Athens* apartment complex on 23 Jun. The second-highest count, nine, was by Daryl Owens at Fernald on 07 Jul. Fifty-eight counties had sightings.

#### **Northern Mockingbird**

Glenwood Gardens, *Hamilton*, hosted 16 on 30 Jul (Harris Abramson). Ten were scattered throughout the Mound Technologies Center, *Montgomery*, on 13 Jul (John Shrader). Sightings of this formerly southern bird, from 58 counties, were statewide as shown in the map on page 150.

#### **European Starling**

Christopher Collins noted about 600 at Wendy Park on 20 Jul; nearby Burke had held almost 500 on 06 Jul (Jen Brumfield). Reports came from 75 counties.

#### **Cedar Waxwing**

Seventy-three counties contributed sightings. The high count was 98, which the CMNH-NAS found at Crosscaven Farm, *Geauga*, on 03 Jun. Tim Haney noted about 60 in Woodlawn Cemetery, *Lucas*, on 30 Jun.

#### **Lapland Longspur**

A report from *Muskingum* went to the OBRC because of its unusual date.

#### **Ovenbird**

These were seen and (probably mostly) heard until 18 Jul, with reports coming from 35 counties. Noel Cutright counted 33 along his BBS route in *Pike* on 08 Jun. Rob Thorn’s Columbus Audubon group found about 25 in Clear Creek on 09 Jun.

#### **Worm-eating Warbler**

Two in Clear Creek on 01 Jul (Jay Lehman), two there on 19 Jul (Deb Bradley and Bryan Sharp) and three along Mohican SP’s Hemlock Gorge

Trail on 02 Jul (Craig Caldwell) were the only birds reported in that month. The high count of four was shared: Craig Moore found them at Clear Creek on 09 Jun, while Robert Foppe and Jennifer Smolenski found theirs along roads in Shawnee on 28 Jun. Other Jun reports came from the three counties above plus *Athens* and *Vinton*.

#### Louisiana Waterthrush

The Mohican SF/SP survey trio found 10 there on 15 Jun (*vide The Bobolink*). The next highest count was seven, made by the CMNH-NAS in the Hubbard Easement, *Ashtabula*, on 07 Jun. Twenty-three counties had sightings.

#### Northern Waterthrush

Two (stragglers or possible breeders) were at Fern Lake, *Geauga*, on 03 Jun (CMNH-NAS). Cole DiFabio heard one in Holden on 15 Jul.

#### Blue-winged Warbler

Bill Stanley's encounter with one on 15 Jul at East Fork was the season's latest. The high count was nine, achieved by Hope Orr on the Wetmore Trails in CVNP on 18 Jun. Matt Anderson made a "better than usual" count of seven in OOPMP on 02 Jun. Thirty counties provided sightings.

#### Black-and-white Warbler

Reports were fairly frequent until 16 Jul; the only report after that was from Headlands on 27 Jul (Dick Hoopes). Columbus Auduboners found about 20 in Clear Creek on 09 Jun (Rob Thorn *et al.*), and every other count greater than two also came from there. Reports came from 21 counties.

#### Prothonotary Warbler

Charles Bombaci monitors nest boxes along the northeast shore of Hoover Reservoir; he counted 27 Prothonotarys there on 30 Jun. Doug and Miki Dunakin noted an uncommon nesting pair in *Paulding*. Thirty counties produced sightings.

#### Tennessee Warbler

Rob Thorn remarked on an "early juvenile" along the Scioto Bikepath in Marble Cliff, *Franklin*, on 28 Jul. The first migrants usually don't arrive until mid-Aug.

#### Mourning Warbler

The four locations with sightings of this "casual thicket nester" (Harlan *et al.*) are:

OOPMP, one on 02 Jun, most likely a migrant (Matt Anderson)

Rocky River Reservation, *Cuyahoga*, one on 08 Jun, also likely a migrant though it was singing (Bill Deininger)

Kightlinger, *Ashtabula*, two on 02 Jun and one on 23 and 30 Jun, probably nesting (CMNH-NAS)

Moss Lake WA, *Trumbull*, one carrying food and so, by OBBA II definition, nesting, on 03 Jul (John Petrucci)

#### Kentucky Warbler

Once again, Noel Cutright took top count honors with 13 along his *Pike* BBS route on 08 Jun. That same day a quartet of birders noted five along 10 miles of Shawnee roads. Twenty-five counties provided reports; of them the northernmost are *Portage* and *Wayne*.

#### Common Yellowthroat

The 07 Jul ONWR census crew found 76 (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide Douglas Vogus*). Andy Jones's *Geauga* kayak trip on 02 Jun (see Eastern Wood-Pewee) yielded 40. Seventy-six counties produced sightings.

#### Hooded Warbler

Mohican SF and SP produced 18 during a 15 Jun survey (*vide The Bobolink*). Hope Orr found 13 along the CVNP Wetmore Trails on 18 Jun. Several other reports included 10 to 12 birds. Reports came from 38 counties.

#### American Redstart

Kayaking the Cuyahoga produced 50 on 02 Jun (Andy Jones; see Eastern Wood-Pewee). Four miles of the Buckeye Trail in CVNP yielded 15 on 04 Jun for the Chasars. Forty counties contributed reports.

#### Cerulean Warbler

The last reported in the season was still singing at Flint Ridge, *Muskingum*, on 19 Jul (Bob Evans). Wes Hatch found 10 in the Swine Creek Reservation, *Geauga*, on 01 Jun; locations in *Hocking* and *Trumbull* had eight. Twenty-seven counties provided reports.



*Cerulean Warblers were quite vocal but difficult to find in the thick foliage at Shawnee Lookout CP, Hamilton, on 04 June, but a venture out of the treetop to steal insects from a spider web gave Laura Keene a lucky photo.*

#### Northern Parula

The trio surveying Mohican SF and SP on 15 Jun

counted 14 (*vide The Bobolink*). Clear Creek hosted at least eight on 09 Jun for a Columbus Audubon group (Rob Thorn *et al.*). Reports came from 34 counties.

### Magnolia Warbler

The 15 Jun Mohican survey found four (*vide The Bobolink*). A few Jun reports of two birds came from **Geauga** and **Vinton**. A few more Jun reports of single birds came from those counties and **Ashland**, **Ashtabula**, **Cuyahoga**, **Franklin**, **Hocking**, and **Lucas**. The only Jul report was Ryan Eldridge's; he saw and heard one in the Rocky River Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 04 Jul.



Rob Ripma photographed this lingering Magnolia Warbler on 08 June along the Magee Marsh boardwalk.

### Blackburnian Warbler

The four reports follow. The Mohican bird was probably a nester and the others migrant stragglers.

One heard singing in Columbus on 06 Jun (Jeff Grabmeier)

One seen and heard in Woodlawn Cemetery, **Lucas**, on 07 Jun (m. obs.)

One seen and heard at Darby Creek on 14 Jun (Dave Slager)

One seen in Mohican SF on 15 Jun (*vide The Bobolink*) and 26 Jun (Gary Cowell)

### Yellow Warbler

Ed Pierce's ONWR census crew counted 122 on 02 Jun (*vide Douglas Vogus*). The second-highest number was at Winous Point, 75 on 08 Jun (Justin Bosler). Andy Jones provided the highest count away from the northwest marshes, 25 during his 02 Jun **Geauga** trip (see Eastern Wood-Pewee). Sixty-six counties produced sightings.

### Chestnut-sided Warbler

These were encountered in moderate numbers until 05 Jul. The only report after that was of two birds which Linnea Rowse found on the Old Man's Cave Trail, **Hocking**, on 18 Jul. Reports also came from **Ashland**, **Ashtabula**, **Cuyahoga**, **Franklin**, **Geauga**, **Lucas**, **Mont-**

**gomery**, **Portage**, **Richland**, **Scioto**, **Summit**, **Trumbull**, and **Vinton**.

### Blackpoll Warbler

The 02 Jun ONWR census produced a straggler (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide Douglas Vogus*). Tom Frankel saw and heard another at Headlands on 09 Jun.

### Pine Warbler

Matt Anderson found seven during his 02 Jun breeding bird survey in OOPMP. Justin Bosler found five there a week later, and many reports from there and elsewhere included two birds. Steady sightings ended on 06 Jul. The only reports after that are of single birds in Shawnee SP, **Scioto**, on 11 Jul (Travis Skaggs) and at OOPMP on 21 Jul (Irina Shulgina). Seventeen counties provided reports.

### Yellow-rumped Warbler

Jerry Talkington *et al.* discovered a very late migrant at Headlands on 12 Jun.

### Yellow-throated Warbler

Douglas Vogus *et al.* found six during the 01 Jun CVNP monthly Towpath Trail census, as did the trio of surveyors in Mohican SF and SP on 15 Jun (*vide The Bobolink*). Reports came from 32 counties.

### Prairie Warbler

Reports came throughout the season though their frequency tailed off after mid-Jul. The high count was six. Scott Myers found them in 10 miles of driving through Tri-Valley WA, **Muskingum**. Brian Wulker also noted six along two miles of Abner Hollow Road, **Adams**, on 10 Jun. Twenty-one counties had sightings.

### Black-throated Green Warbler

Various parts of Mohican SF and SP hosted a total of 16 for the survey trio on 15 Jun (*vide The Bobolink*). Marcia Rubin counted six in Hocking Hills SP on 16 Jun. **Ashtabula**, **Coshocton**, **Fairfield**, **Geauga**, **Harrison**, **Lake**, **Medina**, **Scioto**, **Summit**, and **Vinton** also contributed reports.

### Canada Warbler

Several observers found one in Mohican SP on each of three early Jun dates, near the covered bridge or further downstream along the Hemlock Gorge Trail. This is a fairly reliable area to find them on territory and the trio of surveyors counted 11 on 15 Jun (*vide The Bobolink*). Bruce Simpson discovered a possibly wayward individual in Lake Hope SP, **Vinton**, on 04 Jul; they're known to nest in nearby Hocking SF.

### Wilson's Warbler

The only reliable report was of a northbound straggler in the Puritas Wetlands, **Cuyahoga**, on

08 Jun. Members of a Western Cuyahoga Audubon field trip discovered it.

#### Yellow-breasted Chat

Ten miles of Tri-Valley WA roads, *Muskingum*, yielded 15 for Scott Myers on 09 Jun. Noel Custright found nine on 08 Jun along his *Ross* BBS route. The Dunakins commented that they again found one in *Paulding*, “back this summer after being absent for several years”. The 43 counties with sightings were statewide but had a southern bias.

#### Eastern Towhee

Possum Creek MP, *Montgomery*, hosted 29 on 27 Jun (Amanda Lawson). Two reports of 20 were the next numerous and there were many reports in the teens. Sixty-three counties produced sightings.

#### Chipping Sparrow

Justin Bosler noted 65 during his five hours in OOPMP on 09 Jun. Daniel McCament found 30 in the Wally World Campground, *Holmes*, on 04 Jul. Reports came from 74 counties.

#### Clay-colored Sparrow

*The Bobolink* reports that “This very rare summerer was seen n. of Loudonville [*Ashland*] on several days in early summer” with dates in May, on 01 Jun, and on 20 Jun.

#### Field Sparrow

OOPMP and Justin Bosler again provided the high count, 36 on 09 Jun. Many other reports approached that number. Sixty-six counties yielded sightings.

#### Vesper Sparrow

Scott Pendleton reported 80 at The Bowl on 28 Jul, and commented, “This time of year, the Vespers congregate on or along the haul roads. Many juveniles were present [so] I stopped counting at 50 and estimated in 5’s after that.” He had counts of up to 13 there on earlier dates. The highest number elsewhere was six, achieved on 07 Jun near Clay, *Auglaize* (Dan Briem) and on 09 Jul along Degenfelder Road, *Lucas* (Tim Thompson). Twenty counties provided reports.

#### Lark Sparrow

Tim Haney found eight in OOPMP on 03 Jun and reports of five or more came from there on other dates. Observers found two in Oakes Quarry Park, *Greene*, on several dates through 15 Jul. Additional reports came from other *Lucas* sites plus *Hamilton*, *Harrison*, *Holmes*, *Montgomery*, and *Tuscarawas*.

#### Savannah Sparrow

Scott Pendleton wrote about the 40 he saw at The Bowl on 28 Jul, “As with the vespers, the

SAVS are along the roads where [their] breeding territories are present and they also will perch on round bales and fence, 3/4 of these were juveniles”. Jen Brumfield noted the second-highest number, 16 at Burke on 16 Jun. Forty counties had sightings.

#### Grasshopper Sparrow

Scott Pendleton and The Bowl again provided the high count, 75 on 28 Jul, and Scott said “one 20 foot section of fence had 17 juveniles perched on it”. Other *Harrison* sites had up to 35; the most elsewhere was 20 at Darby Creek on several dates (m. obs.). Reports came from 31 counties.



*Irina Shulgina* photographed a Grasshopper Sparrow holding food for nestlings hidden deep in the grasses at Battelle Darby Creek MP, *Franklin*, on 22 June.

#### Henslow’s Sparrow

*Harrison* again provided the two highest counts, 58 on 09 Jun in the Second Reclaim District and 17 on 16 Jul at The Bowl (both Scott Pendleton). The most elsewhere was 10, at Huffman Prairie, *Greene*, on 09 Jun (Sam Corbo). Their patchy distribution in 20 counties is displayed in the map on page 150.



*A visit to Lake La Su An WA, Williams*, gave Steve Kelling a wonderful photo opportunity of a singing Henslow’s Sparrow on 16 July.

### Song Sparrow

ONWR hosted 108 during the 07 Jul census (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *vide* Douglas Vogus). The 01 Jun CVNP census found 50 (Douglas Vogus). Sixty-seven counties provided sightings.

### Swamp Sparrow

Ed Pierce *et al.* counted 33 in ONWR on 07 Jul (*vide* Douglas Vogus). The Tappan Drainage Area, **Harrison**, hosted 26 on 27 Jul (Scott Pendleton). Reports came from 29 counties.

### White-throated Sparrow

The four reports are:

One at Headlands on 09 Jun (Tom Frankel)

One in **Summit** during the 16 to 23 Jun county census (*vide* Ann Chasar and Douglas Vogus)

Two in Geis WA, **Cuyahoga**, on 03 Jul (Diane Skipper)

One banded in ONWR Navarre on 13 Jul (Mark Shieldcastle)

### Harris's Sparrow

The OBRC has a report from **Holmes** of a very rare summer sighting.

### White-crowned Sparrow

On 14 Jun Sheryl Young wrote, "I was surprised to see a White-crowned Sparrow foraging in my driveway [in **Erie**]. The bird appeared healthy and aggressively chased a female house sparrow." This appears to be the latest Jun record for the state, though there are a couple of Jul records.

### Dark-eyed Junco

Reports came from about 20 locations in **Cuyahoga**, **Geauga**, **Lake**, and **Summit**, with each county having at least three sites. The high count was eight birds, found by Cole DiFabio in Holden on 28 Jul. Maryann Sedivy reported a pair nesting in a hanging basket on her porch in South Russell, **Geauga**, on 25 Jun – clearly they aren't just forest specialists! The only sighting not in the above four counties was of a single bird at the Mohican SP Gorge Overlook on 02 Jul (Craig Caldwell). See the separate article by Haans Petruschke for more on Ohio's nesting juncos.

### Summer Tanager

The high count of four was shared by sites in **Adams**, **Clermont**, **Lucas**, and **Montgomery**; their dates ranged from 09 Jun to 25 Jul (m. obs.). Locations in **Ashland**, **Athens**, **Darke**, **Delaware**, **Fairfield**, **Franklin**, **Greene**, **Hamilton**, **Muskingum**, **Noble**, **Pickaway**, **Pike**, **Tuscarawas**, **Vinton**, and **Wood** produced counts of three or less.

### Scarlet Tanager

Tyler Ficker tallied 15 males and five females in East Fork on 07 Jul. Elliot Tramer found 10 in

OOPMP on 18 Jun. Sixty-one counties provided sightings.

### Western Tanager

A report from **Holmes** went to the OBRC.

### Northern Cardinal

Sharon Woods MP, **Franklin**, was hopping on 06 Jun – Irina Shulgina found about 100 cardinals there. Douglas Vogus's census crew counted 43 in CVNP on 01 Jun. All but a dozen counties produced reports.

### Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Andy Jones's 02 Jun **Geauga** sortie (see Eastern Wood-Pewee) yielded 20. The second-highest count of nine came from Jeff Harvey's **Mahoning** feeders on 18 Jun. Sightings came from 49 counties.

### Blue Grosbeak

Leihley Hill Road, **Tuscarawas**, produced six during a field trip on 08 Jun (*vide* Robert Hershberger). Fernald hosted five for Brian Wulker on 02 Jul. OOPMP and vicinity remain the only reliable northwestern location (m. obs.). **Adams**, **Clarke**, **Fairfield**, **Franklin**, **Greene**, **Harrison**, **Holmes**, **Montgomery**, **Muskingum**, **Richland**, and **Warren** also provided sightings.



Bob Lane captured this male Blue Grosbeak in a perfect setting on 07 June in **Tuscarawas**.

### Indigo Bunting

These also had a shared high count. Justin Bosler found 30 of them in OOPMP on 09 Jun and the 05 Jul CVNP census (Douglas Vogus *et al.*) tallied that many as well. Seventy-seven counties produced reports.

### Dickcissel

Regina Schieltz wrote, "Dickcissels...have been at normal numbers in Darke Co. We have a lot." The high count, however, was from Fernald, 25 birds on 12 Jul (Brian Wulker). Irina Shulgina found 15 on several dates at Darby Creek. Sightings came from the 31 scattered counties shown in the map on page 150.



### Bobolink

The Second Reclaim Unit, **Harrison**, hosted 130 on 09 Jun, and The Bowl held about 100 on several dates (both Scott Pendleton). The highest count elsewhere was the 41 which Charles Bombaci found along County Road 50, **Hardin**, on 02 Jun. Thirty-three counties provided reports.

### Red-winged Blackbird

Careful counters tallied 664 in ONWR on 07 Jul (Ed Pierce *et al.*, *fide* Douglas Vogus). Justin Bosler found about 500 at Pickerel Creek on 11 Jul. The highest inland count was 350 along Wilderness Road, **Wayne**, on 26 Jul (the Ostermillers). Eighty counties produced sightings.



Ron Sempier photographed this adorable newly fledged Red-winged Blackbird at Big Island WA, **Marion**, on 17 June.

### Eastern Meadowlark

Scott Pendleton noted 80 in The Bowl's grasslands on 28 Jul. The second-highest number was Brian Turner's 50 at Mound City National Historical Park, **Ross**, on 16 Jul. Fifty-nine counties produced reports.



Photographer Allan Claybon caught the eye of an alert Eastern Meadowlark on 21 June at Voice of America Park, **Butler**.

### Western Meadowlark

One was seen between 06 Jun and 19 Jul at Big Island (m. obs.) Another briefly visited the Dunakin's property in **Paulding** on 05 Jul.

### Yellow-headed Blackbird

Jim Dunn found one at Magee on 11 Jul. Joe Miller reported three along Saltcreek Road, **Wayne**, on 26 Jul.

### Common Grackle

Brian Wulker saw about 150 at Lost Bridge on 27 Jul. Allen Chartier carefully tallied 114 at East Harbor on 22 Jul. Reports came from 76 counties.

### Brown-headed Cowbird

A flooded field on West Schiller Road, **Ottawa**, held about 250 on 24 Jul (Justin Bosler). The next-highest number was 35, at The Bowl on 16 Jul (Scott Pendleton). Sixty-nine counties had sightings.

### Orchard Oriole

Eric Elvert found 10 in Englewood on 20 Jul. Other sightings ranged from one to nine birds. Fifty-five counties provided reports.

### Baltimore Oriole

It was another high count for the Upper Cuyahoga River, 25 on 02 Jun (Andy Jones; see Eastern Wood-Pewee). The 01 Jun CVNP census tallied 20 (Douglas Vogus *et al.*). Sixty-three counties yielded reports.

### House Finch

Greg Cornett's feeders in **Delaware** hosted 24 on 29 Jun. Sixty counties produced sightings.

### Purple Finch

These are year-round residents, but the latest report of the season was of two birds at Holden on 11 Jul (Thomas Nonnenmacher). Carole Babyak saw at least three youngsters at her Warren, **Trumbull**, property (a former Christmas tree farm) on 05 Jul, and the trio who surveyed Mohican SF and SP on 15 Jun also found three (*fide* *The Bobolink*). No other reliable report was of more than two birds. Sightings also came from **Ashtabula, Coshocton, Cuyahoga, Erie, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, Richland, Stark**, and **Summit**.

### Red Crossbill

Justin Bosler watched a male flying back and forth over Mallard Lake in OOPMP on 09 Jun. This straggler from last winter's invasion was "quite vocal and I suspect Type 3".

### Pine Siskin

A few seem to hang around every year, and they've occasionally bred in the state. The sightings are:

- One at a Wooster, **Wayne**, feeder on 01 Jun (Randy Rowe)
- One calling while flying over the Station Road area of CVNP on 09 Jun (Jen Brumfield)
- One visiting a **Cuyahoga** feeder on 15 Jun (Mike Sandy)
- One at a **Clermont** feeder on 22 Jun (Liz Clingman)
- One at a feeder near Walnut Creek, **Holmes**, on 28 Jun (Lester Wengerd on *The Bobolink* RBA)
- One in Maysville, **Wayne**, on 29 Jul (Daniel Mast on *The Bobolink* RBA)

**American Goldfinch**

Justin Bosler saw about 45 in OOPMP on 09 Jun. Reports came from 66 counties.

**House Sparrow**

Nancy Anderson tallied 70 in Euclid Creek Reservation, **Cuyahoga**, on 27 Jul. Seventy-two counties provided sightings.

ADDENDUM

**Northern Waterthrush**

Mark Wloch photographed a Northern Waterthrush on the Magee East Beach on 10 May. It had colored leg bands and Mark reported in Jul that the bird had been banded in Jan 2013 in Puerto Rico.

SUMMER 2013 OCCURENCE MAPS FOR SELECTED SPECIES

*Courtesy of Craig Caldwell*

**Northern Mockingbird**



**Henslow's Sparrow**



**Black Vulture**



**Dickcissel**



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Greg Miller	Mike Sandy	Judy Wilbur
Joe Miller	Maryann Sedivy	Mark Wloch
Kent Miller	Regina Schieltz	Amanda Wolski
Lisa Miller	Randy Schietzelt	Curt Wood
Craig Moore	Wayne Schlabach	Brian Wulker
Sandy Morrissey	Inga Schmidt	Sheryl Young
Donald Morse, Jr.	Ron Sempier	Chris Zacharias
Brett Moyer	Bryan Sharp	
Shane Myers	Nic Shayko	
Bev Neubauer	Mark Shieldcastle	
Ed Neubauer	John Shrader	
Mary Ellen Newport	Irina Shulgina	
Thomas Nonnenmacher	Bruce Simpson	

# THE BARN OWL PROJECT — AN UPDATE

By Tom Henry

Below is a brief summary of our Barn Owl capture and banding results in 2013. The success rate of Barn Owl nests in 2013 (51.3%) was not as high as the success rate we saw in 2012 (76.1%). However, Barn Owl nesting success in 2013 was still quite good. Anytime we achieve a 50% rate of active nests we have a good year for owl production. The 76.1 % rate we identified in 2012 was actually the highest nest success rate we've ever recorded in Ohio since we have been banding Barn Owls.

In 2013 we visited 113 Barn Owl nest boxes across portions of five Northeast Ohio counties. We identified 59 active nests (nests with eggs or chicks) yielding a success rate of 51.3 %. We banded a total of 121 chicks from 29 of these active nests. We also captured 60 nesting adults. We banded 23 of these adult owls; the remaining 37 had been banded in previously years either as chicks in a nest or as breeding adults.

The table below details our results.

TABLE 1

County	Active Next Sites	Nests	Un-hatched Eggs	Banded Young	Un-banded Young	Adults Banded		Adults Recaptured	
						Male	Female	Male	Female
Coshocton	1	1	0	5	0	0	0	1	1
Knox	6	6	0	15 (1)	11 (2)	4	3	0	0
Holmes	26	28	24	53	27+(3)	4	4	8	10
Tuscarawas	4	4	0	9	8	0	0	2	2
Wayne	18	20	2	39	43 (4)	4	4	6	7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>89+</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>

Notes:

- (1) Two of the 15 died before fledging.
- (2) Eight fledged and three died.
- (3) Twenty-two fledged and at least four died.
- (4) Thirty-nine fledged, three died, and one was missing.

## THE WARBLERS OF ASH CAVE

By Dennis Profant and Pat Quackenbush

Ash Cave is one of the elements of Hocking Hills State Park and is located in Hocking County. Several areas of the Park are known for their sandstone outcrops and spectacular waterfalls. Ash Cave is the largest recess cave in the state, measuring 100 feet high and 700 feet wide. Ash Cave is a popular destination for tourists, not only for its geological formations, but for the flora and fauna as well. I (DP) have recorded 70 species of woody plants in the park and nearly 100 species of spring wildflowers. Many of these species are common in southern Ohio, yet others are usually associated with glacial remnant forests found much further north. The gorge is full of towering Tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), and Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*). The rim is blanketed with hemlock trees and the upper slopes have a mix of oaks and hickories.



Black-throated Green Warbler, photo taken by Michael Williams.

While working at the park back in 1980, I was able to conduct various natural history surveys. I noticed a high number of Northern Parulas (*Setophaga americana*, then *Parula americana*) and Black-throated Green Warblers (*Setophaga virens*, then *Dendroica virens*). They weren't just passing through, but nesting here. In the surrounding counties these two species are fewer in number, or even absent in many of the forest types, in comparison to their abundance at Ash Cave. I wondered how many other species were utilizing the area, so I decided to make a count of all the warblers found at Ash Cave.

Surveys were conducted in 1980 and again in 1981 between 7:00 and 9:00 am. The route included the picnic area, gorge trail, rim trail, and a portion of the Buckeye trail behind the falls.

Birds were recorded by both sight and song. Later that summer I relocated out of state and never did anything with the data. Years later I returned to the area and asked Pat Quackenbush, naturalist at Old Man's Cave and surrounding parks, if he would like to participate in repeating the study in 2005. I wanted to see if the diversity had changed over 25 years. We gathered data using the same methods as before. With both of us involved in other projects, we once again put off calculating our results. It was suggested we write this up for a possible publication, so in 2013, we surveyed again, allowing us to compare over a 30 year period.

Nineteen species of warblers were recorded over the five survey years. The most frequently encountered species include Ovenbird, Northern Parula, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Black-throated Green, Yellow-throated, Black-and-White, Hooded, and Worm-eating warblers. Those that were occasional or uncommon were Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, and Pine, Yellow, Blue-winged, Blackburnian, Cerulean, Canada, Kentucky, Prothonotary, and Tennessee warblers.

The three most common species were Black-throated Green Warbler, Northern Parula, and Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*). When we compare 1980-81 with 2005-06 and 2013, their numbers have declined by over 50%. The Cerulean Warbler is a species of concern and has showed rapid decline throughout its range. In 1980-81 I found 14. In 2005-06 we saw two, and last year zero. Cerulean Warblers, like the Kentucky Warbler, prefer broken canopies, and a multi-layered understory. With the maturity of Ash Cave forests, there are many spots with very sparse understory cover, so it may no longer be favorable to these species.

There were four species in particular that showed the most change. Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*) and Kentucky War-



Common Yellowthroat male, photo taken by Michael Williams.

bler (*Geothlypis formosa*) numbers dropped 93%, Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorum*) by 90%, and Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrine*) by 85%. In South-east Ohio, these are not rare warblers by any means, but at Ash Cave they are nearly nonexistent today.

Comparing the total numbers of birds seen may be misleading, as the number of times we surveyed varied between the years. A better way to see the change is to average the number of birds per visit.

1980-81 = 16.7

2005-06 = 6.6

2013 = 4.7



*Yellow Warbler, photo taken by Michael Williams.*

Of the original 19 species from 1980-81, we recorded only seven this past year. Plant community succession in the old fields on either side of the picnic areas have made the habitat unsuitable for species like Prairie, Blue-winged, and Yellow warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, and other early-succession specialists. The hardwoods in the canopy can live for several hundred years, and the hemlocks easily twice that. So the vegetation composition through most of the park, including the understory, has remained the same over the years. It may simply be what we mentioned earlier, the forest structure itself has changed.

Why does the understory still have Ovenbirds and waterthrushes, but not Worm-eating Warblers? If they forage throughout the forest, their behavior should not be affected. Has soil compaction from too much off trail hiking changed the density of ground cover? Perhaps visitation in the park has reached numbers that are uncomfortable for this species to nest on the ground here anymore. The same could be asked of the Hooded Warbler, which also prefers understory, and whose numbers have declined.

Without studying individual nesting behavior, number surveys like this may ask more questions than they answer. We have all heard of deforestation in the wintering grounds as a major cause of

declining numbers of songbirds. We also need to consider land use practices in our own country. Building collisions and the increased number of wind power installations and cell phone towers take their toll in migration. A higher incidence of Brown-headed Cowbird parasitism is being mentioned as another factor. Pesticides, destruction of wetlands, climate change, and feral cats are also implicated in population declines. The list goes on. It's probably a combination of many factors.

Locally, another threat looms on the horizon. The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*), a piercing-sucking insect, has wreaked havoc on the hemlock trees of the Smoky Mountains. Though not yet at Ash Cave, it has been found in the Hocking Hills nearby. The loss of the Eastern Hemlock would surely cause an even more rapid decrease in species diversity.

We thank Jim McCormac for his comments and input.

*Dennis Profant (Ent56@hotmail.com) has been a faculty member at Hocking College for 25 years, where he teaches Dendrology, Entomology, and Ornithology. He is the author of Trees Shrubs & Vines of S.E. Ohio, a field guide used at the school. He has authored books and papers on the moths of Florida, Michigan, and Ohio.*

*Patrick Quackenbush (pat.quackenbush@dnr.state.oh.us) has degrees in both Wildlife Management and Environmental Science and has been working as a naturalist in the state of Ohio for over 30 years. Having worked for county park systems, Army Corps of Engineers parks, and private camps, he has been with the Ohio Division of Parks for the past 23 years. He is currently the interpretive naturalist for Hocking Hills State Park and the Southeastern Region of Ohio State Parks and an adjunct instructor of Ornithology and Spring Field Biology at Hocking College.*



*Hooded Warbler, photo taken by Michael Williams.*

# NESTING JUNCOS IN OHIO

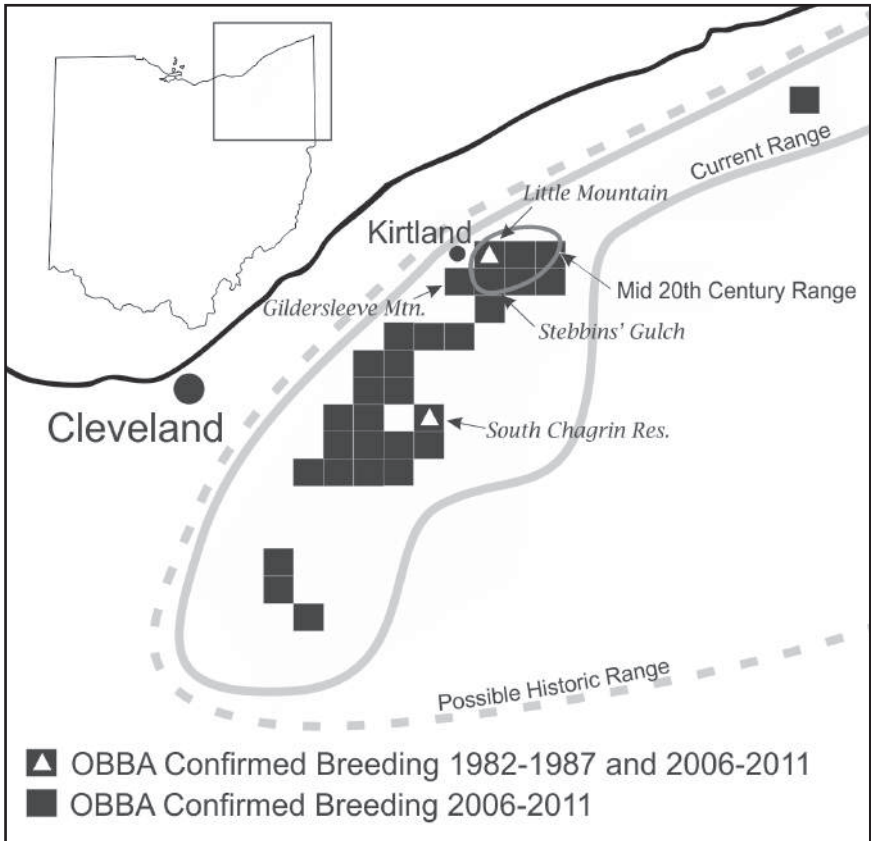
By Haans Petruschke

I remember the first time I heard a Junco singing on territory. I was a boy of seven or eight and my family was on a fishing trip to the French River in Ontario. Already well aware of bird songs, and having the benefit of both a mother and father keenly interested in nature, we quickly found the source of the Tinkerbell song we heard around our cabin in the northern woods. What fun to see what was a winter bird for us on its nesting grounds. That was 1964 or '65.

At the time we were not aware that Dark-eyed Juncos nested in Ohio and most likely within my hometown and current residence of Kirtland. They were very rare and noteworthy in summer and for the most part, everyone considered them to be a winter bird. The local experts whom we knew, notably B.P. "Pat" Bole, did not make the fact of their nesting in the area well known to the general public, although it was certainly noted in the Cleveland Bird Calendar of the day.

Today Juncos are an abundant and prolific nester in a small area of Ohio concentrated in eastern Cuyahoga, southern Lake, western Geauga, and northern Summit counties. Nesting activity is reported outside of this area, but its abundance in those locations is not obvious. It is striking how once you are in an area having appropriate habitats, Juncos are everywhere and obvious during the breeding season, while outside of those areas they are completely absent.

Historically Juncos have always nested in the state: In the nineteenth century, Dr. Jared Kirtland observed Juncos breeding "in great numbers" in the Beech-Maple\* forests of the Western Reserve\*\*.<sup>1</sup> In the twentieth century Juncos were restricted to Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, and Trumbull counties, with only Ashtabula having a sizable population (Hicks 1935).<sup>2</sup> By the mid-20th century A.B. Williams found them to be scarce and cited only a few records of nesting Juncos, all concentrated along the Lake Geauga county border.<sup>1</sup> During the survey for the first Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas, 1982-1987, the species was confirmed as breeding only in that same



Changes in Dark-eyed Junco Nesting Range in Ohio



area with the addition of a location in eastern Cuyahoga County.<sup>3</sup> A decade later I began to notice and report increasing abundance of Juncos during the breeding season in the established locations. This resulted in their status being upgraded to “locally common summer resident” (Rosche).<sup>4</sup> Thirty years after the original atlas, the OBBA 2 (2006-2011)<sup>5</sup> recorded explosive growth in the abundance of breeding juncos and an expansion of their breeding territory southwest into Summit country, resulting in the status we have today.

So in my lifetime we have seen the status of breeding Dark-eyed Junco change dramatically, from perhaps less than 100 breeding pairs in the 1960’s to the stunning local abundance we see today. Yet the range remains confined to the areas Dr. Kirtland observed almost two centuries ago. We forget that our human lifespan is a mere blink of an eye to nature, and so to see such a dramatic change in such a short period raises many questions about both the earlier decline and relatively recent sudden increase of Juncos as a breeding species in Ohio. Additionally contemporary reports have Juncos nesting well outside of the traditional habitat associated with that species.

What follows is a narrative which may provide an explanation. Realize that attempting to explain animal behavior in the field is on the fringe of science, as real science depends upon repeated observation under controlled conditions and tests to also show the absence of a phenomenon under different circumstances. Any speculation about why an animal behaves in a certain way in the field, no matter how well observed, well researched, or scholarly, is at the very best educated speculation, and I make no claim of presenting anything more here. Also, I must add that I like Juncos, a lot. And I have lived in the heart of their nesting territory for much of my life. I have had extraordinary access to the places where they remained as nesters when they were at their lowest numbers, and have had them nesting in my yard, in two Kirtland locations, for over 20 years. So the narrative is also a personal one. It is also the story of a small place in Ohio that exemplifies the story.

Kirtland, Ohio was named for Turhand Kirtland, a revolutionary war veteran, first judge of Trumbull County (which once encompassed the entire Western Reserve), and the father of Dr. Jared Kirtland. Since Dr. Jared Kirtland was a founder of a medical school in Willoughby, Ohio, immediately to the northwest of Kirtland, it is highly likely that Dr. Kirtland was a visitor to Kirtland proper. Given its location on the edge of the Portage escarpment, this landscape of old growth forests, rocky outcrops, steep ravines, and deep valleys whose soil is mostly composed of alluvial clays was given the lowest grade by the Connecticut Land Company. It was considered suitable only for orchards and pastures once the forests had been cleared. Three features found in or near present day Kirtland during Moses Cleveland’s survey for the Connecticut Land Company proved particularly unsuitable for any agricultural activity; they were also considered difficult to log because their terrain was particularly steep. The plots of land as originally laid out did not subdivide these areas. That platting system and the rugged and difficult nature of these places kept them wild and provided refuge for Juncos when all other suitable habitat was lost. It is from

these places that they probably expanded.

Of the three, Gildersleeve Mountain and Stebbins Gulch are named for the original landowners. Little Mountain was divided in two by the boundary of Chardon and Concord Townships. These borders mostly followed a 5 mile by 5 mile grid pattern which was seldom violated for the sake of geography. So Little Mountain got a literal feature name.



*A fledgling Dark-eyed Junco.*

These areas and a few others along the front of the Allegheny Plateau survived the deforestation which came as Europeans settled in the Western Reserve beginning in 1796. Land with the most potential for agriculture was cut first and this provided ample timber for most purposes for decades. Commercially valuable Eastern Black Walnut was abundant in riparian areas of the Ashtabula, Chagrin, Cuyahoga, and Grand Rivers, and these were logged as far upstream as possible once the Erie Canal made shipment of this lumber east viable when it opened in 1825. American Chestnut was certainly an abundant and well used tree in these forests as well. Older homes and barns using post and beam construction used this wood. Hickory was useful for tools and implement frames. Oak was used for tanning and barrels. Cherry was used locally for furniture. Tulip Trees, Cucumber Magnolia, and Yellow and Black Birch are even-grained and easy to work for household and kitchen items. But what of the Beech forests mentioned by Dr. Kirtland? And the Sugar Maples that we know associate with them? Maple sugar is indeed the answer, as this was a valuable resource if the trees were left unlogged. American Beech has little commercial value even today. So the favored habitat of nesting Juncos was generally spared, at least in the beginning.

By the 1890s the clearing of the land for agriculture was essentially complete. Photos of the Kirtland area from the 1840s and onward show a largely open landscape with only a few trees, a very different landscape from what we see today. In the early 20th century only a few patches of old growth forest remained and those were often in the most difficult areas to log. Sugar bushes also survived, but beeches were cleared out to make room for the maples. The symbiotic relationship of beech and maples had yet to be discovered.

In the early 20th century the once abundant Juncos, as a breeding species, were nearly extirpated from Ohio due to loss of habitat. The few areas that did remain did so by the grace of the land owner or because the forest had value as forest. Stebbins Gulch was preserved by the land owner. Little Mountain had become

a resort where wealthy Clevelanders came in summer to escape the heat and coal soot and smog of the city. When the resort was no longer viable the land was purchased and preserved for riding horses. Gildersleeve Mountain came under threat, but early conservationists organized, rallied, and saved the old growth forest there. Little changed for 30 years, but in the 1950's a part of Gildersleeve Mountain not owned by the state of Ohio began being mined for sand and gravel. This continued until 1968 and had multiple effects on the non-quarried areas including changes to the hydrology. Other parts of Gildersleeve were subdivided and became residential properties.

The 1970s, early 80's, and the decade that followed the first Ohio breeding bird atlas are times when our knowledge of breeding Juncos is scarce. There are two reasons for this. The old guard of citizen scientists was fading rapidly. The new guard of birders did not much care for places without a high diversity of habitat and species. So other than the work done for the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas, it seems no one really looked. Peterjohn estimated that during the 1990s, 30 to 50 pairs were present during the breeding season.

My own recollection is that around Kirtland the range and abundance of Juncos were expanding during this period. Where they had previously gone unreported on Gildersleeve Mountain (not to say they were not present), I began to notice them in summer during the late 80's and early 90s, at first by their Tinkerbelle song. At the same time we began to find them in Pierson's Creek valley. Tom Yates and Charles Klaus found them at Lantern Court at The Holden Arboretum. In my recollection they also were being found by Kevin Metcalf at Cleveland Metroparks North Chagrin Reservation, this being, at the latest, the mid-1990s.

Keep in mind that during the first atlas survey, Juncos were confirmed as breeders in only two blocks. One of these blocks included the established location of Little Mountain. The other confirmed block was a new location which included Cleveland Metroparks' South Chagrin Reservation. Two blocks in Lake County that included Lake Metroparks' Hell Hollow and Girdled Road Reservations were listed as probable. The block containing Gildersleeve Mountain is listed as possible. The block containing Stebbins Gulch does not even show Juncos as having been observed! The reasons for such oversights are beyond my knowledge. All I can say was there was either a lack of breeding activity among the Junco population, or it was being overlooked. I can attest that I personally contributed to the latter category during the 1980s.

In stark contrast Juncos were confirmed as breeding birds in 30 blocks during the 2006-11 atlas survey. This is, from my point of view, an astonishing and explosive expansion. It also raises questions about why this happened.

If we accept the assumption that loss of habitat was the reason for the decline of breeding Juncos, then we could easily conclude that return of habitat is the reason for their increased abundance. This is supported by data which show that the area where Juncos are found as a breeding species has experienced an increase in forest cover over the past quarter century. My own feeling is that this overly simplifies the situation. I would specu-

late there are three main factors accounting for this dramatic increase: habitat improvement, habituation, and improved observation and awareness.

My own study of habitat leads me to believe our local Juncos like a high quality forest, with good leaf litter and decaying trees, when breeding. Such a forest also includes a healthy herbaceous layer, a nearby source of clean running water, and mature canopy. The locally dominant Beech-Maple forest is certainly a good habitat, but so are rocky Sharon Conglomerate outcrops where Canada Hemlock and Yellow Birch are more predominant. These areas also generally have the necessary high quality water and herbaceous layer. Both forest types have increased in area during the past 30 years, especially where beech trees have matured. If you are in a wooded or riparian area along the edge of the Allegheny plateau in northeast Ohio and you find have full shade and native herbaceous plants, you have a good chance of finding Juncos during the breeding season.

Habituation is a generally overlooked aspect of bird behavior. There is now ample evidence of avian intelligence and learned behavior spreading rapidly in bird populations. One of the best known examples is of Great Tits in England learning to remove the caps from milk jugs to get at the cream. This trick quickly spread through the entire English population of this species. Our Juncos also seem to have habituated to use areas that are not especially natural as nest sites. In their Ohio breeding range there are numerous examples of their using hanging plants and residential gardens for nesting, even though their typical forest habitat may be, in human terms, a good distance away. Habituation may also be a reason for the spread of the species into more diverse natural areas as well. The last enclaves were typically ravines and steep valleys. But success in these areas required that future generations habituate to less secluded areas.

Improved observation and awareness is certainly a factor in our noticing the explosion in Junco breeding populations. As mentioned earlier, the block containing Stebbins Gulch does not show Juncos as having been observed during the first Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas. This is most certainly an oversight, most likely due to lack of coverage. During the second atlas survey the organizers did an outstanding job of recruiting people to participate in the effort and the nearly complete coverage of the entire state attests to this.

I would add there may be other contributing factors. While the effect of the pesticide DDT on Bald Eagle, Osprey, and Peregrine Falcon populations is well known, the effect on passerines is less so. Holden Arboretum has high quality data on nesting Eastern Bluebirds going back over 50 years. One can easily see the increase in nesting success and steady increase in population which occurred after DDT was banned. It is the typical knee in the curve associated with causality. Perhaps there was a similar, unobserved effect on Junco populations? Improved air and water quality, changes in climate, and other unknowns may also have contributed, and there is simply no sound way of knowing with currently available methods.

What the future holds for Ohio's breeding Juncos is completely uncertain. Climate change models do not have sufficient detail to understand or predict changes

in the very poorly understood or studied micro climates that provide the current niche for our population. The explosion in population over the past 30 years runs contrary to macro models. This is not to say those models are in any way flawed, only that they do not have the ability to see the detail required to predict what will happen in such a small area to a relatively small population. Again I point out that our lifespans are miniscule in natural terms. Our ability to observe and understand is also very limited and biased without controlled conditions.

In conclusion I would encourage readers to take time from their regular summer activities to visit our breeding Juncos. You will be rewarded not only by finding this bird, but also by a natural forest landscape of unsurpassed beauty. In the words of Apollo 15 Commander Dave Scott: There is something to be said for exploring beautiful places. It is good for the soul.

Notes:

- \* Beech-Maple forest is a term coined by Williams in his study of forest secession. Kirtland used the term "Beech forest".
- \*\* The Western Reserve or Connecticut Western Reserve, which now consists of Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, Summit, and Trumbull counties with contemporary Huron county being included as the Firelands, was reserved for those burned out by the British during the revolutionary war.

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*Haans Petruschke, has been watching birds as he can remember, since the age of four. A former bird walk and trip leader, he now concentrates much of his birding time on ongoing breeding bird surveys and habitat monitoring as a volunteer for the Holden Arboretum. An Engineer by profession, he lives in Kirtland, Ohio.*

## YEARS AGO

**10 years ago**, the Summer 2003 *Ohio Cardinal*, Vol. 26 No. 4 (Bill Whan, Editor), contained these items:

- The cover was a photo of a Black Rail discovered in a *Holmes* flower garden.
- Ospreys nested in 16 counties according to the Ohio Department of Wildlife.
- One of an apparent pair of Upland Sandpipers lingered along Krause Road, *Ottawa*.
- Dickcissels “staged an invasion of sorts”; they were noted in 26 counties.
- Six Western Meadowlarks were reported including a pair carrying food.

**25 years ago**, the Summer 1988 *Ohio Cardinal*, Vol. 11 No. 4 (Ed Pierce and Tom Kemp, Co-Editors), contained these items:

- It was the hottest summer in at least 50 years, and July was among the driest ever.
- Matt Anderson wrote an extensive account of Ohio’s first nesting Peregrine Falcons. The birds were not released (at least not in Ohio) but arrived in Toledo on their own in 1987 (the male) and 1988 (the female, who replaced a 1986 arrival which had died). The nest, on the Commodore Perry Building, fledged two young.
- A Loggerhead Shrike pair nested in *Wood*.
- Ohio’s second Black-throated Sparrow spent 04 Jun to 29 Jul in Hambden Orchard WA, *Geauga*.
- The only reported Dark-eyed Junco was in the South Chagrin Reservation, *Cuyahoga*.
- The first Blue Grosbeak nest in the Oak Openings biome, *Lucas*, was documented.

[As a personal note, one of the Toledo Peregrines was my lifer in May, 1990 – ed.]

**35 years ago**, the Summer 1978 issue, Vol. 1 No. 2 (John Herman, Editor), was the second *Ohio Cardinal*. It showed that the journal would be a going concern. Nineteen individuals provided sightings. The issue included these items:

- The summer was cooler than normal.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Herons nested in *Cuyahoga* and *Franklin*.
- One Osprey summered in the state.
- Five singing Dark-eyed Juncos were noted in Stebbins Gulch, *Geauga*.
- A lone male Blue Grosbeak in *Hamilton* received special mention.
- House Finches which nested in *Cuyahoga* also received special mention; in addition they were seen in *Lorain*.

**50 years ago**, the Summer 1963 *Cleveland Bird Calendar*, Vol. 59 No. 3 (Donald L. Newman, Editor), contained these items:

- A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron spent 16 to 31 Jul on the Black River in Grafton, *Lorain*.
- “Bald Eagle - The fully adult bird which arrived at Sherwin Pond, in Waite Hill [*Lake*] on May 31 remained much of the following day, flying about and perching in the pond area.”
- Three Osprey sightings were reported; one was a bird harassing the above eagle.
- Two Western Meadowlarks were seen at Burke Lakefront Airport, *Cuyahoga*, where they had been “reported each summer since 1958”.
- A contributor described Cerulean Warbler, Hooded Warbler, and American Redstart nestlings being predated by Blue Jays.

**100 years ago**, , the *Bird Calendar* did not publish a Summer 1913 issue.

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

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The Counties of Ohio



*Doug Day captured this endearing image of a Northern Flicker feeding one of her hungry nestlings on 11 June in **Clermont**.*

### **Instructions for Contributors**

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

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

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

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

Send digital photo files or links to Laura Keene:

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

Deadlines are as follows:

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

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

### **Back cover:**

*Photographer Nick Baker was serenaded by a beautifully perched Dickcissel at Fernald Preserve, **Hamilton**, on 15 June.*

# OHIO CARDINAL

The Ohio Ornithological Society  
PO Box 2432  
Westerville, OH 43086

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